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Inter-Arab Affairs

Mubarak, al-Asad To Meet in Cairo 'Next Week'

TA2507162291 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 25 Jul 91 pp 1, 11

[Excerpt] Cairo—It has been learned that an Egyptian-Syrian summit will be held next week in Cairo between Presidents Husni Mubarak and Hafiz al-Asad. The summit is to be held following the return of President Mubarak from a visit to Britain and France and the conclusion of Israeli Foreign Minister David Levi's visit to Egypt next Monday, which will last several hours.

The agreement to hold the summit came after the conclusion of Secretary of State James Baker's trip and amid reports of the possibility of Baker's return to the region prior to the U.S.-Soviet summit.

Informed sources said that Presidents Mubarak and al-Asad will send a message to the Soviet-U.S. summit in which they will inform Presidents George Bush and Mikhail Gorbachev of their viewpoints regarding the development of the peace process. [passage omitted]

Husayn Receives Arab League Secretary General

JN2407172591 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 24 Jul 91

[Excerpts] His Majesty King Husayn received at the Royal Hashemite Court at noon today Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid. Immediately upon his arrival in Amman this morning, Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid held talks with Foreign Minister Dr. 'Abdallah al-Nusur. He also made statements to reporters. Regarding the Arab League secretary general's talks, I present you with our correspondent's report:

During His Majesty King Husayn's reception of Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al- Majid, his majesty talked about the issues and challenges the Arab nation is facing at this sensitive stage of its history. He discussed his ideas on joint Arab action to restore reconciliation and well-being to the Arab peoples. His Majesty affirmed the need to draw lessons from the Arab League's performance during the period before the Gulf crisis and from Jordan's honest and firm policy to support Arab cooperation and joint Arab action.

His Majesty King Husayn heard from the Arab League secretary general a briefing on his concepts regarding his mission and the results of the contacts he has held with Arab leaders, as well as ways to revive the activities of the Arab League. The meeting was attended by His Highness Crown Prince Hasan, Royal Hashemite Court Chief al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir, His Majesty's Political Advisor 'Adnan Abu-'Awdah, and Foreign Minister 'Abdallah al-Nusur. [passage omitted]

Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid made statements to the press upon arrival in Amman in which he said:

[Begin recording] ['Abd-al-Majid] I wish to express my joy and happiness over my visit to Jordan and the honor of meeting his majesty the king and ranking officials in Jordan to hear their viewpoints regarding joint Arab action in the coming stage. I would also like to express my thanks and appreciation to the Jordanian Government for its support for me during the Arab League Ministerial Council's meeting to unanimously elect me as secretary general, and in particular, the speech delivered at that time by my dear brother Mr. Tahir al-Masri, then foreign minister.

This visit is part of a tour I am currently holding of the Arab countries to learn about the viewpoints regarding the future stage.

[Reporter] How do you evaluate current efforts to establish peace in the region?

['Abd-al-Majid] I consider this stage a sensitive and important one which has reached the point where we must unite our words and convene the peace conference, which we hope will be held as soon as possible. Preparations are being made for it. I believe consultations are taking place now among the concerned Arab countries: Egypt, Syria, Jordan, and the PLO. All this affirms the unity of the Arab word and the desire to establish a just and honorable peace. Before us lies a great deal of work, for which we need to be ready. I am convinced that this issue is clear in the minds of the leaders in the region. They will do their best to establish peace, security, and stability in our region.

[Reporter] What is the Arab League's role in the proposed peace conference?

['Abd-al-Majid] The Arab League is ready to attend if this is what the participating countries want. I believe that the goals the Arab League is working for are the same as those of anyone participating in the peace conference. We are ready to comply with any request to do any special work for the peace conference.

[Reporter] The Arab boycott decision is an Arab decision. How do you comment on the Egyptian president's latest initiative?

['Abd-al-Majid] The subject, as it is has been reported and as I have heard it, is an attempt to place Israel before its responsibilities, especially regarding the issue of settlements. The subject of settlements is a very dangerous one which threatens the basis of peace. Israel needs to understand this stand and appreciate the dangers involved in it. I am interested in concentrating on the issue of settlements because they are really an illegal act and an obstacle to peace. Therefore, we hope this position will clarify the dangers of the Israeli activity regarding settlements. [end recording]

'Abd-al-Majid Ends Arab Tour, Returns to Cairo

NC2507161491 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1431 GMT 25 Jul 91

[Excerpts] Cairo, 25 Jul (MENA)—Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid returned to Cairo from Amman this afternoon following a six-day tour during which he visited Syria, Lebanon, and Jordan.

'Abd-al-Majid said that the aim of his tour was to listen to the views of these countries' leaders on joint Arab action and to discuss the current Arab situation. [passage omitted]

The Arab League secretary general said that coordination between the Arab parties influential in the peace process is an important issue to Syria and Jordan, emphasizing that he has said Syria's positive response has given the peace process a strong impetus. The plan now is to coordinate the Egyptian, Syrian, Jordanian, and PLO stands, he added.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid said that during his visit to Syria, he met with Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department, and discussed current issues and coordination among the parties concerned.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid asserted that the Israeli settlement policy is an obstacle to peace. Israel must be confronted with its responsibility in this connection, he concluded. [passage omitted]

Arab People's Congress Secretariat Session Begins

LD2107193791 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1849 GMT 21 Jul 91

[Text] Tripoli, 21 Jul (JANA-AMU Pool)—The third session of the Permanent Secretariat of the Arab People's Congress commenced this evening in Tripoli. The session will continue until 23 July, the 39th anniversary of the glorious 23 July revolution. The conferees will discuss items on the agenda which include the Arab and International political situation in light of the anniversary of the 23 July revolution. The members of the Permanent Secretariat will also discuss the intifadah in Palestine, support for the Iraqi people [words indistinct] in addition to preparing for the [word indistinct] session of the Arab People's Congress.

Pan-Arab General People's Congress Ends

LD2507185391 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1804 GMT 25 Jul 91

[Excerpt] Banghazi, 25 Jul (JANA)—Today the pan-Arab General People's Congress concluded its ordinary session in Banghazi. It drafted the resolutions of the masses of the pan-Arab basic people's congresses in the municipalities of the Great Jamahiriyah. The pan-Arab General People's Congress appointed its secretariat and the secretariat of the pan-Arab General People's Committee in the free and democratic atmosphere, during which the true direct people's authority, the good news of which was brought by the third universal theory, was affirmed. [passage omitted]

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Advisers Urge Acceptance of U.S. Plan

TA2607093291 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 26 Jul 91 p 2

[Report by Hemi Shalev]

[Text] Yasir 'Arafat's senior advisers are urging him to accept the U.S. proposals regarding the Palestinian representation to peace talks. Their stand is a result of the likelihood that Arab countries may launch a peace conference either without the Palestinians or with a Palestinian representation unidentified with the PLO.

Information received in Jerusalem indicates that in the wake of a round of talks held this week by senior PLO personnel in Jordan, Syria, and Egypt, some of the senior PLO officials feel that while Arab countries are committed to their organization, there is a chance that Syria, whose relations with 'Arafat are extremely hostile, will at some stage try to propose an alternative Palestinian representation, excluding the PLO.

'Arafat's aides believe that the only way the PLO can remain in the picture is by accepting—possibly in return for guarantees—the American conditions regarding the Palestinian delegation, namely, the absence of East Jerusalem representatives and outside Palestinians. The aides contend that despite these concessions, the move will enhance the PLO's political status because a delegation appointed by the organization will follow its instructions and will be able, in the future, to demand a modification of the principles governing the selection of the Palestinian representatives.

Sources in Jerusalem note that there is no guarantee that 'Arafat will follow his aides' advice. Conversely, the stand expressed by leaders in the territories, who are demanding that the PLO not yield on the matter of the East Jerusalem representation in the talks, is more inflexible than that of some of their colleagues in Tunis.

Faruq Qaddumi Cited on Peace Negotiations

LD2507212591 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 24 Jul 91

[Text] An informed Palestinian source has said that a four-party meeting, including Egypt, Syria, Jordan, and the PLO, will decide on a Palestinian representation in peace negotiations should there be a positive Israeli response to U.S. proposals. The source added that this meeting will also reaffirm that the Arabs support the Palestinian rights.

The Palestinian delegation visiting Damascus, which is under the leadership of Abu-Lutf [Faruq Qaddumi] and

which comprises Yasir 'Abd Rabbuh, Abu-'Ali Mustafa, and Sulayman al-Najjab, met Syrian Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam and Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar'.

Brother Abu-Lutf emphasized that the delegation stressed the Palestinian people's desire for full representation in the negotiations through balanced representation from inside and outside the occupied territories. It also stressed the need for the Arab parties concerned to coordinate their stances to secure a just settlement and to avoid discrepancies, which harm the interests of the Arabs in the peace process.

Brother Abu-Lutf met yesterday with Khalid al-Fahum, chairman of the Salvation Front, and said that these meetings are designed to close Palestinian ranks and to consolidate national unity. He also said that we are facing enormous challenges. He added that he will also meet with officials from the Popular Front, the General Leadership, and the Sa'iqah. He said: We are in constant contact, but we are about to form a new National Council, a matter we are examining for the sake of consolidating national unity.

Palestinian Official Cited on Peace Talks

LD2507203891 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in French 1800 GMT 25 Jul 91

[Text] The Middle East peace conference: correspondent Assia Moussaoui sought some details from Mrs. Hanan Ashrawi, a member of the occupied territories Palestinian delegation:

[Moussaoui] First I wish to apologize for the poor quality of the sound. We cannot broadcast the whole interview. We will thus try to summarize it. The first question put to Mrs. Hanan Ashrawi was: What do you think about the statement made by Yitzhak Shamir saying that he does not believe in a territorial compromise, that he does not have any intention of giving up Jerusalem, and above all, that he excludes any Palestinian participation from East Jerusalem in the peace conference. I invite you to listen immediately to her answer: According to Mrs. Ashrawi, the [word indistinct] proposals of Shamir are no more than the reflection of the Israeli plan according to which neither the occupied territories nor the Gaza Strip will be given up. According to Hanan Ashrawi, these statements are in contradiction with the UN principles and particularly violate the rights of the Palestinians.

I also asked Mrs. Hanan Ashrawi about Yasir 'Arafat saying that the Israeli-U.S. plot aims at establishing another Camp David. What do you think? According to Mrs. Hanan Ashrawi, the intentions of Israel are clear. The United States is following the same line, thus the plot is very clear. In this context, Mrs. Hanan Ashrawi thinks that Yitzhak Shamir wants only one thing: to deny the Palestinians their rights, their right to self-determination and their right to the creation of a Palestinian state. According to Mrs. Hanan Ashrawi, the nature of the Israeli intentions are of total expansion, and that is why Israel does not want to make concessions on what it calls "Erz" Israel. Therefore, dialogue is out of the question as long as the Palestinians persist in putting on an equal footing the Israeli withdrawal from the occupied territories.

Mrs. Ashrawi remains very confident and categorical. According to her, only the PLO is fit to talk on behalf of the Palestinians. There is one thing that is very important to her: the convergence of opinions between Arabs because this will be the true Arab force that will defeat Israeli hegemony and will be the only hope for the Palestinians.

Factions for, Against Joint Delegation Reported

JN2507114591 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 25 Jul 91 pp 1, 15

[By Sa'd al-Silawi]

[Excerpts] Informed Arab diplomatic sources have asserted to SAWT AL-SHA'B that an invitation to a Middle East peace conference would be made during or after the summit between U.S. President George Bush and Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev at the end of this month. [passage omitted]

A knowledgeable, high-level Palestinian source said that in case the Palestinian leadership, which has begun meetings in Tunis, agreed to form a joint Palestinian-Jordanian delegation, then the one who would hand the list of delegation members to the conference's presidency would be His Majesty King Husayn. [passage omitted]

The source added that there is clear coordination between the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP] led by George Habash and the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP] led by Nayif Hawatimah. They are against forming a joint delegation, while a Fatah stream, the Palestinian Communist Party, and the independents support forming a joint delegation if there are guarantees that Israel will withdraw from the occupied Arab territories and if there is a pledge to give the Palestinian people the right to self-determination and the right to set up a confederation with Jordan.

As for representing Jerusalem in the joint delegation, the source pointed to Hazim Nusaybah and Sari Nusaybah as representatives of Jerusalem, in addition to Elias Frayj, mayor of Bethlehem, the cradle of Jesus Christ. [passage omitted]

Commentary on U.S. 'Paradox' on Jerusalem Issue

JN2507190691 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1603 GMT 25 Jul 91

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Now that there is strong U.S. pressure and movement to convene a peace conference—which all have

failed to describe in detail or to characterize to avoid Israeli rejection, which casts its shadows over all peace efforts, imposing an airtight siege on the expressions, words, and terms that can be used, and also to avoid embarrassing the Arab order, which appears submissive, spineless, and ready to accept anything, including violations of this order—there is a host of big questions to be addressed. All of these questions concern substantial matters. Though some may ostensibly have to do with form, they remain important because form in political matters can be so serious and important on various occasions that it can have a positive or negative effect on substantial issues.

The first question concerns how the Americans view the Jerusalem issue. This view dictates that consideration of this issue must be postponed until a later stage in negotiations, contending that it is a controversial subject that could give rise to drastic and major differences that could jeopardize the peace process. This big paradox in the U.S. way of thinking condemns the U.S. Administration's position. Not only this, this paradox shows this administration as one that fully contravenes the UN resolutions, which addressed the Jerusalem issue in all clarity. Moreover, this paradox unveils a conspiracy targeting all Arabs, not only Palestinians, because it shows a big deception aimed at dragging the Arabs to the negotiating table after they are divested of the postponed Jerusalem card due to Israeli rejection. Hence, the Arabs—rulers and peoples—will be held responsible for this forfeiture of rights to holy places. Any favorable response to the U.S. request for postponement in this regard is tantamount to selling out holy Jerusalem and Islamic and Christian holy places as well. Therefore, the descriptions, terms, and proposals should be as clear as possible to avoid confusion and prevent major issues from being dealt with in a mixed-up manner by the petty and the impotent.

The second question regards the conference mechanism and terms of reference. There is an ambiguity or a semblance of ambiguity regarding the land-for-peace formula, as well as UN Resolutions 242 and 338. If this ambiguity is there right now, even before the convening of the conference or during the early preparations for the convocation of the conference, then things are bound to become hazier and more complicated if the next phases are to be realized. Hence, the purpose of the conference should be to unequivocally divest the Israeli occupation of all the territories occupied in 1967, foremost of which is Jerusalem. When such terms of reference are accepted, then the Israeli rejection of participation by Jerusalemites would become totally unacceptable. Likewise, any U.S. condonement of this rejection would be viewed as a violation of the principles, bases, and ethics underlying the eruption of the destructive war to liberate Kuwait. Furthermore, these terms of reference would save the Arab order from the impasse inherent in abandoning its responsibility toward holy places.

As for the third question, it concerns the catastrophic logic governing the U.S. peace moves. Peace necessitates a balance of power and the elimination of any imbalance in this regard to avert continued war threats. Irrespective of this, the U.S. Administration goes to the limit in its efforts to entrench the antithesis of this premise by providing public and flagrant protection for Israeli superiority in conventional and nuclear weapons and goes ahead with its military threats against Iraq. It might even resort to the use of military force to destroy the presumed Iraqi nuclear capabilities. Not only this, with each passing day Israel demands a halt to the Syrian armament programs and also to the production of chemical and biological weapons, without declaring a commitment to halting its own production of these weapons—let alone its production of nuclear weapons. As for the United States, it maintains silence on this. Those who came to be known as the Big Five powers likewise maintain silence on this when ordered to do so by the sole superpower, the United States of America.

What is very strange in this regard is that the Arab states are maintaining silence about all this. This means that the Arab order as well as the Arabs will be divested of the right to defend themselves and their homelands. It also means that they will be placed at the mercy of the Israeli might, which is capable of showing belligerence all over the region. These are some of the big questions we pose. These questions bare the facts before the Arab order, showing the grave dangers posed to the Arab destiny and security. True peace cannot be based on either maneuvering or deception but rather on firm foundations that take into account a just and equitable handling of all issues. This can neither be achieved when Jerusalem is excluded from negotiations nor when the Arabs are disarmed at a time when Israel's weapons of mass destruction remain intact.

Algeria

Islamic Salvation Front Conference Opens in Batna

LD2507160191 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 25 Jul 91

[Excerpts] The national conference of the Islamic Salvation Front [FIS] opened this morning in Al-Widad theater in Batna, in closed session, under the supervision of a strict organizing committee. Our correspondent Mohsen Slimani reports:

Members of the National Choura Council and the chairmen of the provincial executive offices are participating in the conference. According to initial information, their number is estimated at 150 to 200 persons. [passage omitted]

Constantine, who was released recently, informed me that Abdel Kader Hachani is present in the hall, as is Cheikh Abdallah Hammouche. I do not know whether or not Cheikh Sahnouni is attending. As for the conference agenda, leaked information says that the discussion is concentrating on the issue of the new leadership, which will continue pursuing the course of Abassi and Ali Belhadj. Therefore it is expected to elect, or appoint, an official acting spokesman for the FIS. A point which could be included on the agenda is freeing the detainees, headed by Abasi and Belhadj, and the future of FIS and its methods within the framework of the new actualities, which are connected with the splits which appeared within FIS. [passage omitted]

I remind you that the proceedings may continue on Friday.

Press Statement Issued

LD2507225191 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in French 2200 GMT 25 Jul 91

[Text] We go over to the closed session of the Islamic Salvation Front [FIS] Consultative Council meeting in Batna. We have details from our special envoy, Hacene Mazri:

[Mazri] A statement to the press was read today at 1900 by Abdelkader Hachani, chairman of the political commission. According to this communique, all the problems within FIS have been settled. Concerning the national conference proposed by Ghozal, Hachan said that while conditions of dialogue are not met, this conference seems impossible. He mentioned the case of the detention of Abassi Madani and Ali Belhadj, and maintaining the state of siege.

Note that a discontented Said Guechi, chairman of the commission in charge of administrative affairs, left 15 minutes before the reading of this communique. According to what we have heard behind the scenes, 12 new members have joined the Consultative Council. The session continues, and the resolutions will be known through communiques.

Egypt

Italian Foreign Minister on Mubarak's Proposal

NC2407163191 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1450 GMT 24 Jul 91

[Text] Cairo, 24 Jul (MENA)—Italian Foreign Minister Gianni de Michelis has described President Husni Mubarak's proposal calling for an end to the Arab boycott of Israel if it stops its settlement policy as extremely important and timely. In an interview that will appear in the Friday edition of the Cairo magazine AL-MUSAWWAR, the Italian foreign minister said that President Mubarak's proposal confirms that the Arabs yearn for a just peace in the region and a solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict. The proposal was made at a time when President Mubarak is trying to create a climate of confidence between the Arabs and Israel prior to the convocation of the peace conference, de Michelis stressed.

The Italian foreign minister urged Israel to accept President Mubarak's proposal, saying that Israel must immediately stop building new settlements in the occupied territories and seize the opportunity which is now available for achieving a peaceful solution to this long-standing problem.

Libyan People's Congress Secretary Arrives

NC2407183591 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1513 GMT 24 Jul 91

[Excerpt] Cairo, 24 Jul (MENA)—A Libyan delegation led by 'Abd-al-Razzaq al-Sawsa', secretary general of the Libyan People's Congress, arrived in Cairo this afternoon for a week-long visit to Egypt at the invitation of People's Assembly Speaker Dr. Ahmad Fathi Surur. [passage omitted]

Libya Transfers $4 Million To Pay Arrears

NC2607055891 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 0335 GMT 26 Jul 91

[From the press review]

[Text] On its front page, AL-JUMHURIYAH reports that workers federation leader Ahmad al-'Amawi has announced that Libya has transferred $4 million to pay wage arrears of Egyptians formerly employed in that country. Al-'Amawi added that contacts are under way to arrange further transfer of funds for the Egyptians workers.

Mubarak Receives Invitation to African Conference

NC2407165191 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1240 GMT 24 Jul 91

[Text] Cairo, 24 Jul (MENA)—President Muhammad Husni Mubarak has received a written message from Nigerian President Ibrahim Babangida. Dr. Butrus Ghali, deputy prime minister for foreign affairs, received the message during his meeting today with Nigerian Ambassador in Cairo Mustafa Sam [name as received].

Following the meeting, the Nigerian ambassador said that the message is an invitation for President Mubarak to attend the meeting of the African heads of state, scheduled to be held in Abuja on 30 July. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss the list of African candidates to the post of UN secretary general. Egypt has named Dr. Butrus Ghali to the post.

Arabic Papers Comment on Mideast Peace Process

AL-AHRAM on U.S. Stand on Iraq

NC1307080191 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0635 GMT 13 Jul 91

[Text] Cairo, 13 Jul (MENA)—AL-AHRAM newspaper in a commentary today emphasized that Iraq's concealment of material for producing weapons of mass destruction helps the U.S. Government cover up its failure to address the Middle East issue resulting from Israeli intransigence. It said that controlling this issue and diverting attention from the cessation of U.S. efforts on the peace process, and the reasons behind it, is favorable to the U.S. Administration at election time—again blaming the Iraqi regime of obstructing implementation of Security Council resolutions to divert attention from what Israel is doing.

AL-AHRAM stated that the United States and allied countries will continue to use this issue to serve their interests. They will play it up or down as they see fit because it involves implications that will be used as several weapons aimed in several directions. The paper further said that activating or freezing this issue also serves the presidential election campaign in Washington to favor the U.S. President and his party. The issue of Iraqi arms is unlikely to be settled easily, even if Baghdad were to pledge dozens of times that it had concealed nothing from the inspection teams.

AL-AHRAM AL-MASA'I Comments

NC1307124491 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1137 GMT 13 Jul 91

[Text] Cairo, 13 Jul (MENA)—AL-AHRAM AL-MASA'I has called on the United States not to carry out a new military operation against Iraq, saying that this could lead to unpredictable serious consequences in the region. In its editorial today, the paper expresses the view that U.S. President George Bush's threats to carry out a military action against Iraq violates the mandate given by the UN Security Council to the coalition forces to use suitable means to liberate Kuwait. The paper adds that there are various means which can be used to remove and destroy the nuclear weapons in Iraq. Military means and the threat of using certain weapons are not necessarily among them.

The paper adds: The recent American threat could result in the United States losing the credibility it gained during the Gulf war, particularly in view of its failure to exercise any practical pressure on Israel to force it to respond to the appeal for peace. Furthermore, it could also give the impression that the United States is biased against the Arabs, because Iraq's infrastructure, according to UN reports, has been destroyed and now is back to what it was in 1920. Therefore, Iraq will not be able to manufacture or build nuclear weapons, which the U.S. President is threatening to destroy.

Concluding its editorial, the paper refers to Monte Carlo radio's report that during a recent telephone conversation, President Husni Mubarak informed President Bush of the need to avoid any new military action against Iraq.

AL-AHRAM on Protecting Kurds

NC1407052691 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2131 GMT 13 Jul 91

[Text] Cairo, 13 Jul (MENA)—AL-AHRAM says the rapid action force several Western countries have decided to form to protect the Kurds in northern Iraq is a serious precedent for future dealings with nations which are harmed by their regimes. In an editorial in Sunday's edition, AL-AHRAM says the fact that this force is being established in the wake of the Kuwait liberation war—which the entire world agreed was a just war and that the coalition countries were on the right side—makes this force appear of lesser importance and the product of a unilateral action.

The paper points out that despite the U.S. Defense Department's denial that this force's role will go beyond defending the Kurds against further Iraqi attacks, it has been conspicuously clear that the negotiations between Baghdad and the Kurdish leaders took place under the aegis of the former provisional force consisting of U.S. and European troops. This gave the impression that the Kurds had protection during the negotiations, and consequently, the formation of another force might have a similar effect of strengthening their position in the talks.

In conclusion the paper draws attention to the fact that when the northern Kurds have enjoyed both temporary and long-term protection, the fate of around 1 million Shiites in the south, who are isolated in the marshlands on the Iranian border, remains unclear despite the appeals made everywhere on their behalf.

AL-JUMHURIYAH on Mideast Solution

NC1707194191 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0620 GMT 17 Jul 91

[Text] Cairo, 17 Jul (MENA)—The newspaper AL-JUMHURIYAH notes the international community's welcome of the positive Syrian reply to the U.S. peace proposals and U.S. President George Bush's description of the Syrian response as favorable and positive. In its editorial today, the paper says it was not strange that Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir hastened to reject the response which, it is clear, has taken him by surprise. It adds that what is important is the U.S. position, which is demonstrated by the fact that U.S. Secretary of State James Baker will make a new shuttle tour of the region in an attempt to eliminate pitfalls and surprises from the path to the peace conference.

The paper adds that following the positive Syrian reply, the ball is now completely in Yitzhaq Shamir's court, and that Shamir continues to gamble with the fait accompli game and with his attempts to alter historical, demographic, and geographic facts in the occupied territories. In conclusion, the paper says that after the Arabs did their utmost to promote the peace efforts and achieve a solution that guarantees stability and security in the region, all eyes are now on Washington, which promised during the Gulf war to implement legitimacy in Palestine. They will watch to see how concerned the United States is about its credibility in the region, particularly as the world is sure the United States possesses numerous ways of convincing Israel that peace will not come through the occupation and annexation of territories by force of arms, but by stability and recognition of the legitimate rights of the region's peoples.

Commentary on Iraq's Treatment of UN Nuclear Team

NC1407185291 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1140 GMT 14 Jul 91

[Mahmud Marzuq commentary: "The New Egyptian Warning"]

[Text] Will the Iraqi regime risk a new war with the international community? This is the question currently being asked. If the Iraqi regime persists in its stubbornness and risks a new adventure like last time, an enormous disaster will befall the Iraqi people. With this scenario in mind, President Husni Mubarak sent a message to Iraqi President Saddam Husayn through a third party warning him of the gravity of the current situation, which may expose Iraq to another allied offensive that would destroy certain strategic targets inside the country due to its rejection of the international community's appeals to inspect its nuclear facilities in accordance with the UN resolutions.

The Iraqi regime is still maneuvering and equivocating about implementing Security Council resolutions after having exerted great efforts to persuade the international community through the United Nations that it would implement them to reach a cease-fire. After convincing the international community of its desire to go along with the resolutions, the regime began to disavow these very same resolutions in several areas. This stand may prompt the international community to implement these resolutions by force if necessary.

When the Iraqi regime received a strongly worded ultimatum and a specific deadline from the UN committee regarding the inspection of its nuclear facilities, it again belittled the international community's credibility and resolve to impose the supremacy of law and Security Council resolutions and to establish peace in this vital region. This disdain alone brought back to the region an atmosphere of war. Denying the UN team the right to inspect nuclear facilities is a clear violation of the cease-fire agreement between the Iraqi regime and the joint forces. It is also clear justification to the allies to use force against the regime to compel it to submit to international will as before.

If the Iraqi regime is introducing another war, Egypt feels great pain for the enormous human and economic losses that Iraq may sustain again if its regime tries a new adventure again. Led by President Mubarak, Egypt adopted a stand on the Gulf crisis proceeding from the principles and values in which it believes and cherishes—principles of right, justice, good neighborliness, and fraternity on which all peaceloving people pride themselves. Egypt today adopts the same stand. Egypt warns the Iraqi ruler of the gravity of the situation. In confronting dangers, Egypt is, as usual, capable of supporting justice and right, believing in its role and mission, appreciating peace, and careful about its nation and its brothers' security.

'Slush Funds' for Senior State Officials Reported

NC1607154491 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 11 Jul 91 p1

[Jamal Shawqi report]

[Text] In the past few days, a new and grave government scandal has been revealed. It has been ascertained that secret slush funds exist in some ministries. These funds, which are financed by the coffers of these ministries' public sector companies and are estimated to be worth millions of Egyptian pounds annually, are unfairly spent on rewards for senior ministry officials.

AL-WAFD has learned that these funds have been set up illegally, secretly, and without the supervision of the central audit office. The Industry Ministry, which oversees 116 public sector companies, heads the list of offenders. The public companies pay a percentage of their profits to the ministries annually and AL-WAFD has learned that the senior ministry officials receive several million Egyptian pounds a year. Ministry office directors and senior officials get the lion's share of these funds.

Mauritania

Laws Authorize Political Parties, Press Freedom

AB2507230091 Paris AFP in French 2139 GMT 25 Jul 91

[Text] Nouakchott, 24 Jul [date as received] (AFP)—Two laws providing for the authorization of political parties and the establishment of press freedom were published tonight in Nouakchott, following a meeting of the Military Committee for National Salvation (CMSN) which is provisionally ruling the country. This committee will continue to manage affairs until the establishment of the institutions envisaged under the Constitution adopted on 12 July, which provides for the establishment of a multiparty system and the creation of a two-chamber parliament, thus ending 13 years of military rule.

The law on political parties, however, prohibits "Islamic parties" while at the same time it demands all parties respect Islam and the country's social and cultural mores. Any propaganda calling for violence or which is hostile to the national or territorial unity of Mauritania is also prohibited. These provisions, observers note, seek to prevent the emergence of both Arab as well as black African extremists.

The text of the law, which was broadcast on national radio and television, stipulates that each political party have seven founding members and at least 20 members. Under this law, it is also envisaged that the state will grant subventions to parties, proportionately to the number of seats each party will win in parliament. Any external aid to parties or links with the outside is prohibited. These laws are enforceable with immediate effect. The parties should deposit their applications for recognition to the minister of interior.

The law on press says any publications, bookshops, and printing presses are "free" to operate.

The democratization of the Mauritanian regime, which has been in the hands of the military since the overthrow of President Mokhtar Ould Daddah, was announced in a speech a few months ago at the end of the Ramadan by the head of state, Colonel Maaouya Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya. He announced that Mauritania would get a new constitution and a two-chamber representation system (Chamber of Deputies and a Senate) as well as an economic and social council. Col. Taya also announced that democratic general elections would be held "before the end of the year" in a multiparty system.

A vast movement of democratic demands had been noted in recent months in Nouakchott where a number of open letters were calling for the free creation of parties and the democratization of the regime.

Morocco

MNP, PND Back Hassan on Sahara Referendum

LD2207153691 Rabat MAP in English 1242 GMT 22 Jul 91

[Text] Rabat, July 22 (MAP)—Mobilisation of all Moroccans behind King Hassan II to face campaigns aimed at Morocco's sovereignty and territorial integrity were called for by Moroccan parties MNP (National People's Movement) and PND (National Democratic Party) and by newsmen union "SNPM". In a statement circulated Saturday, leader of the National People's Movement Mahjoubi Ahardane recalled that the party's constitutive council was held under the theme "the defence of integrity" and said there is a national unanimity on the Moroccan Sahara issue. Ahardane called for more vigilance to foil anti-Moroccan campaigns and urged all the party's activists to take part in the meetings the party is to organise in all Morocco's provinces.

The National Democratic Party (PND), in a ceremony on the occasion of the party's 10th anniversary, underlined the self-rule referendum in the Saharan provinces will only confirm the region's belonging to Morocco and the Sahrawi people attachment to their homeland.

The PND secretary general Mohamed Arsalane al-Jadidi renewed PND adherents attachment to the Kingdom's sovereignty and territorial integrity. The newsmen's trade union called on all Moroccan newsmen to mobilise to defend Morocco's unity and foil all attempts fomented by the Kingdom's enemies targetting the kingdom's unity.

Parliament Denounces External Interference

LD2507223991 Rabat RTM Television Network in Arabic 2030 GMT 24 Jul 91

[Excerpts] The prominent event in the national arena today is the extraordinary session held by the Chamber of Representatives in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 39 of the Constitution at the request of all the parliamentary groups and political parties which constitute the Chamber. The session, which was chaired by Ahmed Osman, speaker of the Chamber of Representatives, and attended by Prime Minister Dr. Azzedine Laraki and members of the Cabinet, was devoted to the issue of national mobilization to confront the conspiracies against and challenges to the country's sovereignty and territorial integrity. [passage omitted] Here is a report on the extraordinary session held today by the Chamber of Representatives:

Another stand is being made by the Moroccan people through its representatives in the Chamber of Representatives to confront the enemies of our territorial integrity, a stand which has embodied that national consensus on the sacred cause of Morocco. All the speakers agreed that this extraordinary session is of great importance, especially at this critical stage through which the issue of

the Moroccan Sahara is going, a circumstance that requires alertness and vigilance. It requires total mobilization to smash the conspiracy which is aimed at unsettling the stability of Morocco and harming its sanctities and which takes the issue of the referendum as a vehicle for passing on the plots of mercenariness and breaking away.

The various speakers unanimously denounced the attempt by some organizations to interfere in the internal affairs of Morocco, such as the encroachment on our sovereignty, nationality and religion, and considered that those organizations and quarters which specialize in the demagogic application of the human rights file have more than once shown open hostility to Morocco and to its territorial integrity. This requires all the dynamic national forces to confront them and show them what they stand are through total national mobilization that strives to achieve, first, defense of our territorial integrity, and to foil all the attempts at misleading in order to confront all the persons and associations which have shown hostility to Morocco.

The speakers placed the Sahara issue in its true context—the context of legitimacy and history through reviewing the sequence of returning our southern provinces to the national realm and through unity and consensus between the throne and the people on consolidating the pillars of our territorial integrity through what has been accomplished in favor of our southern provinces and the sacrifices that had been made to repulse all the dangers threatening this unity.

The speakers did not fail to consider the planned referendum in the southern provinces as nothing but a confirming [ar ta'kidi] referendum, especially after our citizens in these provinces, more than once, expressed their attachment to their Moroccan identity and nationality. It is confirmed by the blessed royal visits to the southern provinces which have embodied that loyalty to the throne and that attachment to the sanctities of the homeland.

The speakers criticized the attempts by some French associations which intend to interfere in the referendum process and considered this process to be within the competence of the United Nations. No side has the right to impose its view and ideas on the United Nations. They raised questions as to those who stand behind these associations that stand today against the will of all the Moroccans through their endeavor to create a special situation which is not in the interest of the United Nations nor in the interest of its laws and customs. Rather they strive to encourage the principle of breaking away at a time when all have become convinced of the impossibility of the continued survival of small entities. [passage omitted] The various speakers expressed all the Moroccans' rejection of the use of the issue of human rights as a pretext for harming national unity for which all the Moroccans have sacrificed all that is dear and precious. [passage omitted]

Sudan

Minister Denies Iraqis Storing Nuclear Material

NC2507182591 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1724 GMT 25 Jul 91

[Text] Cairo, 25 Jul (MENA)—During a stopover today at the Cairo airport en route to Amman, 'Abdallah Muhammad Ahmad, Sudan's minister of culture and information, denied foreign media reports that Sudan agreed to store Iraqi nuclear and chemical weapons on its territory. He also said the current coolness in Egyptian-Sudanese relations is natural in the course of events, adding that no mediation is needed to clear the air between the two capitals.

Tunisia

Ben Yahya Interviewed on Foreign Relations

PM2507104491 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 23 Jul 91 p 2

[Muhammad 'Ali al-Qulaybi report: "Tunisian Foreign Minister tells AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: We Are Working To Bolster Our Relations With All Arab States"]

[Text] Tunis, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Tunisian Foreign Minister Habib Ben Yahya has emphasized to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that his country is currently working to develop its relations with all the Arab states, including the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Syria, and Egypt.

He added that Tunisia is also working to alleviate anything that tends to divide the Arabs and, most importantly, to settle the Palestinian issue and the Lebanese question.

On Tunisian-U.S. relations, especially following Congress' recent decision to cancel the military aid and reduce the aid allocated to Tunisia for 1991, Ben Yahya said that relations between Tunis and Washington are old and traditional. So it is wrong to link the reduction of U.S. aid to Tunis to political conclusions, even though the measure did take place during the Gulf crisis.

Ben Yahya pointed out to U.S. budget changes from year to year and to a program to control the U.S. budget deficit. The reduction of aid has not been confined to Tunisia. Ben Yahya said that Tunisian-U.S. relations are based on mutual respect, on the 7 November initiative—namely democracy, pluralism, freedom of expression, and human rights—and on mutual understanding of our countries' policies.

Ben Yahya pointed out that the chief aim of his June visit to Washington at the invitation of his U.S. counterpart, Baker, was for him to acquaint himself closely with the policy and orientations of the world's greatest superpower, which carries weight and plays a role in the

region, especially in the efforts for peace and to settle the Palestinian issue. In this context the Tunisian foreign minister said that he acquainted himself with all the past stages in that direction in his meetings with Secretary Baker in Damascus and Washington, in his contacts with the Arab foreign ministers on the sidelines of the Arab League Council's recent meeting in Cairo, during his visits to a number of Arab capitals, and in his talks with PLO officials.

On the subject of Palestinian representation and ways of resolving the Palestinian issue, Habib Ben Yahya said that Tunisia accepts the PLO's decisions, since Tunisia is not more Palestinian than the Palestinians. Ben Yahya said that the principle behind Tunisia's foreign policy is to liberate the occupied territories and to grant the Palestinians their own land and rights.

The Tunisian foreign minister renewed President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali's call in the French newspaper LE MONDE to involve the Arab Maghreb states in the Middle East peace process.

Ben Yahya pointed out that resolving the Palestinian issue is one of the major elements in the new political approach in relations with the United States. This approach is based on mutual respect, consultation, and the exchange of views on all the important issues that concern both countries.

Habib Ben Yahya emphasized that Tunis is currently taking part, earnestly and determinedly, in clearing the Arab atmosphere and restoring Arab accord, proceeding from its firm belief that the Arab states' destinies are linked.

The Tunisian foreign minister did not conceal his belief that the process will take time in order for the wound caused by the Gulf crisis to heal.

Ben Yahya regarded the Arab states' collective participation in the recent Arab League Council meeting and the unanimous election of Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid as league secretary general as a positive indication of Arab accord.

Answering a question from AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT about what Tunisia expects from its relations with Paris and Rome, especially following President Francois Mitterrand's recent visit, the Tunisian foreign minister said that the visit emphasized that relations between Paris and Tunis in particular, and between Paris and the Maghreb capitals in general, are still traditional and strong and steadfast in the face of all crises and difficulties. This is the real significance of the visit.

Ben Yahya pointed out that Tunisian-French relations will undergo a qualitative shift during the Joint High Committee's meeting in Paris in October. The same applies to our relations with Italy, which has become the world's fifth-ranking industrialized state.

He added that Tunisian-Italian cooperation will be strengthened through Italy's participation in Tunisia's development program, the formation of new joint companies, and the execution of numerous projects early next year.

The Tunisian minister noted that President Ben Ali has submitted to numerous European leaders ideas and proposals based on equal-based development, the investment of interest on debts in projects in the Arab Maghreb states, and the conclusion of a charter guaranteeing the rights of Maghreb communities in Europe and securing their work within the EEC in 1993.

The Tunisian foreign minister pointed out that Tunisia is working directly to strengthen the ties of cooperation between the EEC and the Arab Maghreb Union states.

Regarding recent reports of competition between France and Italy over Tunisia, the foreign minister said that the competition principle is a method applied in free economies, if what is intended is honrable trade and economic competition. On the other hand if what is intended is the old meaning, I emphasize to you that Tunisia is an independent and sovereign state, and cooperation and interstate relations will never be to the detriment of its sovereignty since we have our interests and they have theirs.

Kuwait

Foreign Minister Outlines Foreign Policy Aims

PM2607095691 London SAWT AL-KUWAYT AL-DUWALI in Arabic 24 Jul 91 p 3

[Unattributed interview with Shaykh Salim Sabah al-Salim, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; date, place not given]

[Excerpts] [SAWT AL-KUWAYT AL-DUWALI] What is the strategy of the new foreign policy?

[Al-Salim] Kuwaiti foreign policy will not change its fundamentals. It is based on Kuwait's belief that it is part of the Arab world and its belief that it is part of the Islamic world. We are part of the world as a whole. We believe in the Arab League, in our Arab affiliation, in the Islamic Organization, and in the United Nations and its principles. These are the fixed foundations of Kuwait's foreign policy.

There are other issues which arise from time to time. A position must be adopted on such issues. A decision must be made on the basis of the circumstances of the issue that arises. There are principal Arab issues which are actually our issues—first and foremost, the Palestinian issue. The Palestinian issue is like the Kuwait issue. Apart from this, there is another view for other dealings. This is the Kuwaiti Foreign Ministry's policy.

[SAWT AL-KUWAYT AL-DUWALI] What is the diplomatic and informational plan to respond to the tendentious campaign launched by the PLO against Kuwait abroad?

[Al-Salim] We will not descend to the level of lies and insults. We are above such things. The rumors and lies circulated against Kuwait are exposed by the facts. The proof of this is that the policy pursued by Kuwait through the composure of its amir, heir apparent, and architect of its foreign policy, Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad (Abu-Nasir), caused the world to support us unanimously and for the first time in the history of peoples and nations.

I would like to emphasize that the PLO's position will not affect Kuwait's support for the Palestinian cause. The PLO is one thing and the Palestinian cause is another.

When we find that there are quarters that deserve a response, such as the Arab League and the United Nations, we respond to them with the facts and in a scientific way.

[SAWT AL-KUWAYT AL-DUWALI] How harmonious are the positions of the Damascus declaration states vis-a-vis security arrangements in the Gulf region?

[Al-Salim] Regrettably, for some reason the world press trying to exaggerate things, insofar as when the Damascus Declaration states' meeting was delayed, a lot of noise was made, it was claimed that "there is some disagreement," and so on.

I am not telling journalists or politicians not to analyze matters, but I do ask them not to exaggerate the issue. This, because—for a certain reason or owing to special circumstances—one state requested that the meeting be postponed for a week, so there was a postponement. Then the meeting was held, in an excellent atmosphere characterized by cooperation and understanding.

The Gulf Cooperation Council states, Egypt, and Syria believe in the fundamental principles of the Damascus Declaration, namely, the political situation, the economic situation, the social situation, and the security situation. And they are willing to provide us with whatever quantity of forces we may require to take part with the Gulf and Kuwaiti forces in protecting Kuwait. [passage omitted]

[SAWT AL-KUWAYT AL-DUWALI] What conditions must be established to improve Kuwaiti and Gulf relations with the states that adopted unfriendly stances toward Kuwait?

[Al-Salim] We are the people against whom an aggression was committed. Honorable and noble Arabs stood by us and by what is right, proceeding from their principles and morals. The world stood by us, proceeding from this basis. All this is because of the principles and fundamentals in which they believe. We are Arabs and we will not abandon our Arabism. We are Muslims and we will not abandon our Islam. The question should be addressed not to us but to those who wronged us. This is because we are now in our country and will continue our policy, and whoever wants to deal with us must declare his position openly and clearly.

We did not sever diplomatic relations with any state except Iraq, and this is our right. All Kuwaiti people have the right to demand that relations with Iraq be severed. As for other states, we have embassies and diplomatic representation there. [passage omitted]

[SAWT AL-KUWAYT AL-DUWALI] Do you believe that Iraq will dare commit another aggression against Kuwait?

[Al-Salim] Iraq cannot now move a little finger, and Iraq's true intentions have been exposed.

Nuri al-Sa'id tried to annex Kuwait by diplomatic means, but Shaykh 'Abdallah al-Salim was alert and refused.

Then 'Abd-al-Karim Qasim declared these intentions openly.

He tried to make the Army act, but failed. Then Saddam put them into practice.

So the Kuwaiti people should not forget this historic sequence. We will not restore our relations with Iraq as along as that clique and these intentions exist. This is my personal view.

I believe that the Kuwaiti people should not be shaken and should have no fear. On the contrary, they should stay and work to restore life to their country, rebuild what was destroyed by the Iraqi tyrant and his supporters, and prove to the whole world that they are a solid and strong people. [passage omitted]

Saudi Arabia

King Fahd Meets Somali Delegation Chairman

LD2507234291 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Television Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 24 Jul 91

[Report by Jeddah correspondent Sulayman al-'Isa]

[Excerpts] King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz al Sa'ud, custodian of the two holy mosques—may God safeguard him—today received at the royal cabinet, at al-Salam Palace, a Somali National Reconciliation Conference delegation, led by His Excellency Aden Abdullah Osman, the former president of the Republic of Somalia and chairman of the conference. [passage omitted]

His Excellency Aden Abdullah Osman, the former president of the Republic of Somalia and chairman of the conference, gave the following speech which was translated into Arabic by His Excellency Ahmed Abdallah Mohamed, the Somali ambassador to the Kingdom. Aden Abdullah Osman utters the first sentence, and Ahmed Abdallah Mohamed translates the speech into Arabic:

[Begin Osman recording in Somali, with passage by passage translation into Arabic] Peace; may God's mercy and blessing be on you; King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz al Sa'ud, custodian of the two holy mosques, may God safeguard you: It gives me pleasure to thank you and express my gratitude to you for the hospitality and the kind invitation extended to us, we, the sons of Somalia and members of the Somali National Reconciliation Conference. I express to you most sincere thanks and gratitude for this kind invitation. We in Somalia harbor every love and appreciation for the fraternal Saudi people and for the continuous support and help they provided to the Somali people. We always remember this kindness and great generosity. We in Somalia know of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's publicizing and promoting of the Somali cause, especially after the bloody events that took place in Somalia which consumed everything in it. The Somali people suffer from the difficult problems left behind by the these bloody events, and the efforts you are exerting to publicize the facts in Somalia are also appreciated by us. Somalia suffers many problems, most significant of which are the problems of poverty, starvation, and pain. We are confident, custodian of the two holy mosques, that you know this and that Somalia is in dire need of speedy support. Somalia, which used to enjoy democracy, security, and tranquility, has experienced what it has experienced. All of us here have agreed, decided, and chosen to restore security and order to Somalia. All of us agreed on this at the two meetings—or rather, the conferences—held in Djibouti. We all discussed the Somali problems thoroughly until we reached an agreement to restore security, order, and tranquility to the whole of Somalia. We beseech God Almighty to grant us success in implementing all the resolutions which we adopted and on which we agreed. Custodian of the two holy mosques, allow me to confirm to you that we harbor and express our appreciation and thanks to you and to the fraternal Saudi Arabian people for the support and assistance it provided for the Somali people, support which continues. We are in dire need at this time, in particular, of urgent assistance to bandage the wounds of our brothers in Somalia who are still awaiting support and assistance from their brothers. We have agreed at our meetings to restore to Somalia its unity, integrity, security, stability, and welfare. We do not accept at all, and we will never accept, that splitting up, dispute, and division should happen in this country, Somalia, which was united 31 years ago. Somalia must have its unity and unified entity, and we are working to this end. Therefore, we decided that the northern province should have the share in government it used to have; therefore, we decided that they should have their place. I beseech God Almighty to guide us to what is in the interest of our country. Once again, I repeat my thanks to the custodian of the two holy mosques and to the fraternal Saudi people, who allowed us the honor of visiting this great country, the land of the Koran and Islam, and the two holy mosques. Once again, I repeat my thanks to you, custodian of the two holy mosques. Peace; God's mercy and blessing by upon you. [end recording] [passage omitted]

'Panic' in Baghdad Amid Fear of New Attacks

NC2507130191 Paris AFP in English 1220 GMT 25 Jul 91

[Report by Farouk Choukri]

[Excerpt] Baghdad, July 25 (AFP)—Panic has gripped Baghdad over the last 48 hours with residents hoarding food in fear that the United States could launch a new attack, ahead of the expiry of a U.N. deadline ordering Iraq to make public its nuclear potential.

Residents rushed to grocery stores and state-run supermakets stocking up on rice, tea, sugar and pasta and many families left the capital heading for the provinces and even neighbouring Jordan. They fear that the United States, in an effort to enforce U.N. ceasefire accords, will launch a new wave of aerial bombardments against Baghdad to force the government into revealing the full scope of its nuclear potential. [passage omitted]

Opposition Radio on Iraqis' Increasing Fear

NC2507144491 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Opposition in Arabic 1300 GMT 25 Jul 91

[Text] Iraqi citizens are getting increasingly anxious and fearful with the expiration today of the Security Council's deadline for the tyrant to make public his nuclear capabilities or face military action by the international coalition forces.

A citizen told REUTER: We are worried because of what happened in the past. He was referring to the expiry of the 15 January deadline for the tyrant to withdraw from Kuwait. The citizen said people are getting more fearful all the time.

The number of citizens leaving Baghdad is increasing while the tyrant's regime is [words indistinct].

U.S. 'Conspiracy' Said Premeditated, Ongoing

JN2607083991 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0715 GMT 26 Jul 91

[Text] Baghdad, 26 Jul (INA)—The newspaper AL-QADISIYAH, organ of the Iraqi Defense Ministry, has said that whether the United States launches a fresh military aggression against Iraq, or whether it is satisfied with extorting and threatening the people of Iraq, it is still a premeditated, continuing conspiracy whose chapters have been prepared in advance.

In its editorial today, the newspaper says that the people of Iraq will continue to hold fast in the face of the new chapters of the plot and will not allow America to turn its criminal acts into political gains and objectives at the expense of their right to life and progress. The paper stresses that the Iraqi people will remain faithful to their principles and leadership.

The paper asserts that the United States is escalating its deceptive campaign about Iraq's nuclear capabilities and is taking to extortion and intimidation through predominantly Western organizations. The paper notes that Washington enjoys clear political influence over such organizations and tampers with their charters in accordance with its hostile political schemes. The paper says that what calls for caution is this U.S. insistence on continuing the aggression to strike and completely destroy Iraq.

The paper says that it is no accident that this aggressive escalation coincides with confirmed reports about a request to partially lift the unjust economic blockade so that the people of Iraq are able, even though temporarily, to obtain food and medical supplies.

The paper explains that the measure, although taken for humanitarian reasons, partly reveals that in spite of the fierce U.S. media campaign, world public opinion understands the ordeal the people of Iraq are going through.

Foreign Minister Reacts to IAEA Decision

JN2507174591 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio First Program Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 25 Jul 91

[Text] Foreign Minister Ahmad Husayn has asserted that the decision of the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA] Board of Governors on 18 July regarding Iraq's noncompliance with its obligations to the IAEA is unfair and unbalanced, and was issued on the basis of preconceived notions and political motives and objectives.

In a letter sent today to the UN secretary general, the foreign minister said that in two letters sent to the IAEA director general on 10 and 12 July 1991, Iraq explained its view on Paragraphs B and C of Article 24 of the treaty of guarantees, signed by Iraq and the IAEA, upon which the Board of Governors based its decision against Iraq on the basis of the IAEA director general's report.

The IRAQI NEWS AGENCY correspondent in New York has said that in his letter, the foreign minister explained that instead of studying our viewpoint and taking the time to reach a common understanding with us over the content of this article, the IAEA director general has made hasty judgments against Iraq under the pretext that Iraq had not given the IAEA information on certain nuclear material.

The foreign minister said that the IAEA director has not taken into account that Iraq has indeed, and officially, given information on the nuclear material to the IAEA, as noted in our letter of 7 July 1991. He also has not taken into account that this material was scrutinized by the third international inspection team which departed Iraq on 19 July 1991 and that this material is now in the custody of the IAEA. The minister said that on that basis, it was possible for the IAEA director general to consider this to be sufficient and a corrective measure in accordance with Clause 19 of the treaty, just like similar previous cases which the IAEA had to deal with. The minister referred to a similar case reported in Document

2201, included in the report of the fulfillment of guarantees for 1984, which referred to Luxembourg's export of enriched uranium to Israel.

The foreign minister said: Does Iraq not have the right to wonder why a quantity of 11,000 tonnes of enriched uranium, produced annually by the energy reactors and not subjected to the IAEA's system of guarantees, does not receive the same attention as that given to small quantities of yellow salt [uranyl nitrate] and other uranium compounds in Iraq?

The foreign minister stressed that the report presented to the IAEA Board of Governors did not use the same criteria the IAEA had used in previous cases. In addition, the report did not have sufficient legal foundations. He adds that such a meeting should not have been called before the IAEA's inspection teams had ended their last inspection tour and presented their final report and deductions, in accordance with the regulations of Article 12-C of the IAEA's statute, because the results of these teams' activities are directly linked to the discussions of a topic of this kind.

The foreign minister said in his letter: The Board of Governors made their decision, which included Paragraph D of the introduction and the procedural Paragraph Five, ignoring a number of facts and data. Some of these are that three nuclear inspection teams have visited Iraq so far, and three teams from other fields. They received all the cooperation they needed from the Iraqi side. He referred to the circumstances that confronted one of these teams, and said: Iraq previously explained these circumstances to the Security Council president, as well as to the ranking delegation which visited Iraq, one of whose members was the IAEA director general.

He said: Very high-ranking Iraqi officials gave the necessary assurances that Iraq is fully prepared to provide all the facilities to all teams and cooperate with them in performing their tasks. The letter said that the ranking team presented its report to the Security Council and clearly noted these assertions made by the Iraqi officials. It also pointed out that the upcoming visits of the teams will reveal the degree of cooperation from the Iraqi side.

The foreign minister said in his letter that the IAEA director general, who is one of the members of the ranking delegation, should have clarified this to the Board of Governors. The Board should have taken its time before including in its decision Paragraph D of the introduction and the procedural Paragraph Five, until such time as one of the inspection teams had concluded its tasks after Iraq explained the reasons for the circumstances that occurred with the second inspection team, and after Iraq made clear and confirmed pledges.

He pointed out that the Board of Governors held a meeting on this decision on 8 July 1991. This was the last day of the third inspection team's visit to Iraq. The head of the team and all its members expressed their great satisfaction with the full cooperation shown by the Iraqi side. We believe the Board did not take this into consideration, and that it issued its decision before reading the team's report.

The minister wondered why the Board of Governors insisted on condemning Iraq for not cooperating at a time when the Iraqi technicians are cooperating among themselves in a very practical atmosphere. He said: This is a worrying and distressing position. He affirmed that the Board of Governor's decision was issued in accordance with preconceived political notions and purposes. What they seek to do is to provide the technical justification for the specialized agency [IAEA] to prepare for a new aggression on Iraq after Iraq has completely exposed its nuclear program.

He pointed out that those same sides that pushed the Board of Governors to issue this decision also seek to maintain the boycott being imposed on Iraq without any legal or moral justification, in order to starve the Iraqi people as a means of interfering in Iraq's internal affairs and attempting to impose foreign domination on it.

It is worth mentioning that the IAEA Board of Governors met in Vienna on 18 July and issued a decision in which it claimed that Iraq had not adhered to its commitments in the peace agreement with the IAEA. The Board decision also included a call to the IAEA General Assembly to convene in September 1991 to discuss the file of Iraq's nonadherence to IAEA rules. The Board called on Iraq to stop hindering the activities of any IAEA inspection team in their efforts to implement Security Council Resolution 687.

'Military Strife' With Barzani Group Possible

NC2607072891 (Clandestine) Voice of Rebellious Iraq in Arabic 0440 GMT 26 Jul 91

[Text] Mas'ud Barzani is continuing his talks with the defeated 'Aflaqite regime, the only Kurdish negotiator to do so. After a recent meeting with Taha Yasin Ramadan, Saddam's wretched vice president, Saddam's news agency reported that Barzani expressed confidence in what he called Arab-Kurdish brotherhood.

The other Kurdish negotiators, including Patriotic Union of Kurdistan leader Jalal Talabani, withdrew from the talks because of the concessions Barzani was offering. These concessions would have strengthened the position of the 'Aflaqite regime in every area.

Mas'ud's ongoing talks coincide with reports that his armed followers are facing a crisis in al-Sulaymaniyah and Irbil, where they no longer command the respect of local residents or members of other Kurdish movements. This (?coolness) may develop into military strife between fighters from the parties that reject the negotiations and Talabani's. [sentence as heard].

The Democratic Party of Kurdistan, which Barzani leads, has been plagued by (?divisions) on the political

and military levels since negotiations between Kurdish leaders and defeated Saddam collapsed.

Opposition Group Rejects Baghdad Amnesty 'Ploy'

LD2607031891 Tehran IRNA in English 1730 GMT 25 Jul 91

[Text] Tehran, July 25, IRNA—Saddam Husayn's amnesty order early this week to pardon all political prisoners was described as "another ploy of Baghdad's propaganda and intelligence machine" by a spokesman for an Iraqi opposition group Thursday.

"Our people have bitter experiences from such clemencies because these so-called pardons have always resulted in the death of thousands of people deceived by the Iraqi regime's lies," the spokesman for the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution of Iraq (SAIRI) said.

The SAIRI spokesman said the main goal of the Baghdad regime for taking the measure was to get out of isolation before its people. During the last days of its lifespan, the regime ruling Iraq is trying by all available means to establish closer contacts with the Iraqi people, he said. But it is certain that the people knowing the wicked nature of the regime would never take a notice of such puppet shows and would continue their uprising, the spokesman said.

Envoy Briefs Reporters on Talks With UN Chief

JN2607104291 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1011 GMT 26 Jul 91

[Text] United Nations, 26 Jul (INA)—Dr. 'Abd-al-Amir al-Anbari, Iraq's permanent representative to the United Nations, met with UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar last night. An INA correspondent at the United Nations said that Ambassador al-Anbari told reporters after the meeting that it was part of his continuing consultations with the General Secretariat and the ambassadors of the UN Security Council member states.

He added that all Security Council member states are convinced that the economic embargo has affected, and will continue to affect the Iraqi people. The United States alone refuses to acknowledge it.

'Responsible Source' Details Vaccine Shortage

JN2507130091 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1152 GMT 25 Jul 91

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 25 Jul (INA)—A responsible source at the Health Ministry has warned against the effects of the continued economic blockade against the Iraqi people and their deprivation of medicines, vaccines, and foodstuffs. In a statement to INA, the source said the health institutions in the country are suffering an acute shortage in the serums of various vaccines, estimated at 1,388,500 doses.

There is also shortage of 15,000 doses of scorpion vaccine; 10,000 doses of snake vaccine; 4,000 doses of diphtheria, yellow fever, hepatitis, and gangrene vaccine; 32,000 doses of rabies vaccine; 750,000 doses of children's hepatitis vaccine; 125,000 doses of adult hepatitis vaccine; and 200,000 doses of German measles vaccine. [passage omitted]

Memos to UN Protest U.S. Overflights 23-25 Jul

JN2607054791 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio First Program Network in Arabic 0300 GMT 26 Jul 91

[Text] U.S. warplanes have continued their violations of Iraqi airspace, engaging in acts of surveillance and provocation. In a memorandum to UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar, Iraq's UN permanent delegate reported that U.S. air activity in Iraqi airspace for 23-24 July 1991 totalled 34 sorties made up of 12 two-plane formations, two three-plane formations, and four individual ones. The aircraft flew at a speed of 600-650 km per hour and at an altitude of 3 to 8.5 km. The aircraft primarily overflew the regions of Irbil, Mosul, Dahuk, al-'Amadiyah, and north of Rawandoz. They dropped flares and broke the sound barrier to the east and north of Mosul.

Iraq's permanent UN delegate sent another memorandum to the UN secretary general in which he reported that U.S. air activity in Iraqi airspace for 24-25 July 1991 totalled 10 sorties made up of one four-plane formation and two two-plane formations flying at a speed of 700-900 km and an altitude of 2 to 4 km, as well as a formation flying at a speed of 360 km per hour and an altitude of 2 to 4 km. The U.S. overflights concentrated on the areas of Irbil, al-'Amadiyah, north of Mosul, and Dahuk for purposes of surveillance and provocation.

Shamir States Desire To Begin Negotiations 'Now'

TA2607113591 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1100 GMT 26 Jul 91

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir has said that Israel welcomes the change that has taken place in the Syrian position. This is the first time that the Syrian president has been prepared to conduct negotiations with Israel; this denotes a change in his extremist positions. I do not know the reasons that brought it about, and at present it does not matter why it happened, Shamir said. Our correspondent Yo'el Nir points out that the prime minister met in his office with a Canadian delegation.

Mr. Shamir added that now, with the change in al-Asad's position and with the U.S. efforts to bring about peace between us and our neighbors, it seems that there is an opportunity for negotiations with each of the Arab states and the Palestinians residing in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip. There are still many questions that must be clarified, because each of the Arab states has problems, but we must first of all talk with Syria and Jordan and find a formula to coexist with the Palestinians.

At present there are preliminary discussions on how to bring about a meeting between us and the Arab states, the prime minister said. There are still obstacles, and I hope that with goodwill and a desire to achieve peace, we will be able to sit together around the table and begin direct negotiations. Nobody knows what the outcome of the negotiations will be. There may be crises and interruptions. It will not be an easy process; it is a complex process and depends on many elements, but we must start negotiations, and it is our desire to begin now, the prime minister said.

Al-Shar' Answered: U.S. Must Be Honest Broker

TA2607054291 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 26 Jul 91

[Excerpts] There has been a swift response from the Prime Minister's Office on the Syrian foreign minister's statement that U.S. President Bush has given Damascus assurances that Israel will have to withdraw from all fronts in return for peace.

The director of the prime minister's bureau, Yosi Ahime'ir, says Israel expects the United States to act as an honest broker. Even if it held views not acceptable to Israel, it should not side with Syria against Israel. Ahime'ir said that U.S. Secretary of State Baker had indeed promised that Washington would adopt a fair policy and that there would be direct negotiations between the two sides, who would have to come to an understanding between them. More in this report by David Ze'ev:

[Begin recording] Most likely there are two possibilities: Either the Americans are hiding something from Israeli officials, or the Syrians have a very liberal interpretation of what the United States has told them. The way Jerusalem understands it is that President Bush and Secretary of State Baker have assured Syrian officials the U.S. Government has never recognized Israeli sovereignty over the Golan Heights. That's it. But in Damascus last night, Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' said Bush's assurances included a specific reference to an Israeli withdrawal from the West Bank and Gaza Strip and the Golan Heights. [passage omitted]

Secretary of State Baker assured Israeli officials as recently as this week's talks in Jerusalem that there were no secret deals between the United States and Syria, but because Baker never showed the Syrian response to Israeli officials—he only gave them a detailed report—there are at least some in government circles here who have been suspicious that something has been hidden. Justifiably or not, those suspicions will now grow. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Jerusalem is also upset at reports of contacts being conducted by the Americans and the French with Palestinians, including Faysal al- Husayni. A Qol Yisra'el reporter says the French contacts with Palestinians are believed here to have been carried out with the encouragement of Washington. They note that al-Husayni met with the French foreign minister together with the PLO representative in Paris, Ibrahim al-Sus; this, despite understandings reached with the United States that the PLO would not be involved in negotiations. [passage omitted]

MENA Claims Yes to Baker To Be Given 29 Jul

NC2507113891 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1108 GMT 25 Jul 91

[Text] Cairo, 25 Jul (MENA)—MENA has learned that Israel is expected on Monday to give its response to the proposals by U.S. Secretary of State James Baker on holding a peace conference.

Well-informed sources have told MENA that Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir and Israeli Foreign Minister David Levi are expected to draw up a formula concerning acceptance of U.S. proposals and will hold a news conference and present it to the Israeli Government.

The sources said they believe that this formula will be so precise that it will not allow any side within the Israeli Government the chance to reject it. If any side shows inflexibility, the question Shamir could ask these opponents may be: What is the alternative?

The sources said that the date for holding the American-Soviet summit next Tuesday, 30 July, is a time-limiting factor for the Israeli Government, for the latter will have to announce its position before that meeting.

Shamir Aide Ben-Aharon on Needed Clarifications

TA2607055791 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 26 Jul 91 pp 1, 10

[Report by Shim'on Schiffer, Rami Tal, and 'Uzi Mahanaymi]

[Excerpt] Before replying to President Bush's compromise proposals designed to enable the convening of a peace encounter, Israel expects to receive numerous clarifications pertaining not only to the composition of the Palestinian representation at the peace conference.

This observation was made yesterday by Yosi Ben-Aharon, the Prime Minister's Office director general, in a talk with YEDI'OT AHARONOT. The talk further revealed that Israel is demanding that the contents of the letter containing the invitation be agreed on in advance and that the letter explicitly state the goal of the encounter.

Ben-Aharon added that Israel wishes to achieve an understanding with the United States on the approach to be taken on the issue of the Jordanian-Palestinian delegation. Israel wants the right to address the conference to be reserved for the Jordanian chairman of the delegation only and not the Palestinian delegates. Israel is also demanding that only the Jordanians be allowed to fly a flag during the opening ceremony.

In addition, Israel wishes to be advised in advance of the main points of the Jordanian-Palestinian delegation's speeches. In talks in Jerusalem, Secretary Baker's aides were told that the Israeli delegation will not agree to the Jordanian delegation's speech including a reference to the PLO.

It has been learned that the Americans are taking vigorous action with the PLO in an attempt to obtain the organization's approval for the candidacy of several Palestinians from the territories who are not residents of East Jerusalem. Until last night, Israel had not received a U.S. list of names of Palestinian candidates for the talks. [passage omitted]

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 0405 GMT on 26 July carries a similar report, adding that "it has been learned that in the report presented by Dennis Ross in Washington upon his return from Jerusalem, he referred to two main difficulties: the issue of whether a Palestinian resident of East Jerusalem would participate in the second stage of the talks, and an Israeli demand that Syria free at least the young Jewish women there."]

Interviewed on Peace Process

TA2507175991 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 25 Jul 91

[Interview with Yosi Ben-Aharon, director general of the Prime Minister's Office, by Shlomo Ganor and Yehezqel Ya'aqobi, on 25 July on the weekly "Meeting" program; recorded in Hebrew with Arabic subtitles]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [Ganor] Is it at all possible that the peace process will be delayed until we resolve the issue of the Jordanian-Palestinian delegation, or at least its Palestinian component?

[Ben-Aharon] The issue may seem a mere technicality to some, but I believe that where progress toward an arrangement is concerned, the eastern sector comprising the Palestinian population of Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza, as well as Jordan, is potentially the most promising.

[Ya'aqobi] In view of the polarity of your's and the other side's positions, is there any chance....

[Ben-Aharon, interrupting] Despite the seeming polarity of stands, we want the Arab population to prosper; we do not want it to suffer. We want the intifadah to stop not only because it harms us, but also because it harms them. When they suffer, we also suffer. When will they understand this? When will they realize that they must rescue themselves from the lethal embrace of the masked men, the PLO, and Faysal al-Husayni?

[Ya'aqobi] Do you believe the representatives with whom Israel wishes to negotiate will be able to free themselves from the lethal embrace?

[Ben-Aharon] This depends only on the will of the Arab man in the street. We are not a dictatorial state, and although we have an army, we cannot use bayonets to force our will on them. They know very well that our army is there for military purposes, and not for forcing their future on them. On the contrary, we would like them to decide their own future. They should take their future in their own hands, which means that it is up to them to take action to prevent their children from hurling stones, to expose the masked men, and to see that their future is not decided unilaterally by Faysal al-Husayni and Hannan 'Ashrawi, who act on the instructions of the terrorists residing in Tunis.

[Ganor] The names you have mentioned, Mr. Ben-Aharon—are they negotiating with the United States, as well as France which, I presume, has the covert blessing of the United States? What is your reaction to the negotiations held with candidates you have rejected?

[Ben-Aharon] I regret to say that there is disagreement over this issue between us and several foreign elements, including the United States. All our attempts to make them understand that it is unfair to deliver this population, which is so important to us, to the exclusive patronage of the PLO have been in vain. Even former Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin said: We will not sit with Faysal al-Husayni, because he is PLO for all purposes. Hannan 'Ashrawi is his spokesperson, and we are not going to negotiate with them.

[Ya'aqobi] With whom will we negotiate? Do you have names?

[Ben-Aharon] You can imagine what would happen to a man whose name I revealed here and now.

[Ya'aqobi] Most of the Palestinians regard the PLO as their sole representative.

[Ben-Aharon] I do not know that this is true. I admit that if you were to ask a Palestinian today who represents him, he would tell you: Wallahi, Munazamat al-Tahrir [Arabic for, "By God, the PLO"]. We believe the Palestinians want their own good. They know what the PLO is all about. They know that its people are murderers and what their future would be if these people were to run their affairs. They deserve a better future than they would have if the PLO ran their affairs. That is why I am sure that there are many good, intelligent, and moderate Palestinians. I do not want them to give up their objectives, but let them serve the interests of the population rather than those of Tunis.

[Ya'aqobi] Are the Americans more understanding of your position about the Palestinian representation today than a year and a half ago?

[Ben-Aharon] I think that as the moment of decision gets nearer, the Americans realize that this issue cannot be glossed over. We cannot start talking with Faysal al-Husayni, who may the next day raise the PLO flag or may later be replaced with an avowed PLO man. This would not work. We would not make any progress, and the Palestinian population would suffer.

[Ganor] Are you talking about the first phase of the talks, or does this also apply to the second phase, when we discuss the permanent arrangements?

[Ben-Aharon] Are you talking about the PLO?

[Ganor] Yes.

[Ben-Aharon] No way, we will not talk to the PLO today, tomorrow, or any time in the near future.

[Ya'aqobi] Does this also apply to inhabitants of East Jerusalem? Would they take part in the talks about the permanent arrangements?

[Ben-Aharon] No, obviously not. They live in Jerusalem, which is our capital, and they have nothing to do with autonomy. [passage omitted]

[Ya'aqobi] Are there any secret U.S.-Syrian promises and accords, such as one on the interpretation of UN Security Council Resolution 242, that the Israeli Government is unaware of?

[Ben-Aharon] We trust, and we want to trust, the United States to tell us what it told the Syrians on these sensitive issues. If, God forbid, the United States were to lose some of its credibility, the entire process could collapse and be lost. Indeed, U.S. officials told us they had explained to Syria that, according to the U.S. interpretation, Resolution 242 applies to all areas—that the United States does not recognize the law passed in 1981 applying Israeli law and jurisdiction to the Golan Heights. No less important, as far as determining the border between Syria and Israel, the United States told Syria that the issue should be discussed in negotiations between Syria and Israel.

Well, we may not be overjoyed about the U.S. interpretation of Resolution 242, but if what is at stake is negotiations, then we will conduct negotiations.

[Ganor] What will we discuss in the negotiations with Syria, in view of the position stated by Jerusalem this week that we do not intend to withdraw from the Golan Heights?

[Ben-Aharon] We are constantly being told that negotiations cannot be held without making territorial concessions.

[Ganor] And what do you say to that?

[Ben-Aharon] This is the result of the brainwashing by our Arab friends for 40 years, particularly after the Six Day War, that everything is territory.

[Ganor] Specifically, what will we discuss with Syria?

[Ben-Aharon] We do not accept the approach that territory is the key to everything, that without territory nothing will happen. If this is the Syrian approach on the first day, if they ask us whether we agree to withdraw from the Golan Heights, yes or no, from the first moment, this would be a clear sign that it is not peace that they want but territory.

They may raise any issue, but what we will discuss with them is how to establish a relationship to prevent an eternal war between Israel and Syria. Other issues pertain to Lebanon, mutual security, the regional economy, and water and ecological problems that are very important both to Syrians and Israelis. If they want to raise the question of territory, we will have an answer, which is known: The State of Israel sits on the Golan Heights, and the State of Israel will not withdraw from the Golan Heights.

[Ganor] What about demilitarization, sir?

[Ben-Aharon] We are very experienced on such issues.

[Ganor] The Israeli-Syrian disengagement agreement from 1975 has proved itself, and demilitarization on the Golan Heights remains in effect.

[Ben-Aharon] It has proved itself because we are sitting on the Golan Heights, first and foremost, and not because of the disengagement arrangements and the UN Disengagement Observation Force. Because we sit on the Golan Heights, all other factors are supplementary. Had we not been sitting on the Golan Heights and had there been only those other factors, I am quite positive that we would not have peace on that border.

With your permission, I would like to say something about the nature of regimes. Democratic regimes seek to

settle their problems peacefully, and you will not encounter any example in history of two democratic regimes settling their conflicts through war. A totalitarian and dictatorial regime does not rule out war—that is its nature. Unfortunately, the regimes neighboring us, particularly Syria, are totalitarian and dictatorial. That is why what their leaders say today—and we have seen this on many occasions; Saddam Husayn is the latest example—is not necessarily what will happen tomorrow, documents, guarantees, and demilitarization agreements notwithstanding. Hence, as long as such a regime remains in power and the indoctrination against the State of Israel continues, we cannot conceive of taking risks on points that we consider vital. [passage omitted]

Where did the issue of U.S. guarantees stand when the U.S. working team left Israel?

[Ben-Aharon] We have not yet discussed this issue. The best guarantee is peace and its components.

[Ya'aqobi] I think Shlomo was talking about loan guarantees for immigrant absorption, particularly about a linkage.

[Ganor] I was talking about those and about the guarantees for the advancement of the peace process.

[Ben-Aharon] I prefer to call the latter understandings and clarifications. We did not discuss this topic, but just mentioned it in passing. Some points are self-understood, in that we have had clarifications and memoranda of understanding in the past that have to be updated. We have only just begun working on this issue, which is tied in with the clarifications we are awaiting from the United States. As soon as we get the full picture, we will be able to discuss some sort of memorandum of understanding. The prime minister cannot submit the issue to the government as long as he does not have a full picture, and that is why we have not yet begun discussing accords and understandings.

As for loan guarantees to finance immigrant absorption, coupled with economic reform to increase Israel's employment potential, we understand that the U.S. House and Senate are forthcoming because they realize this is a humanitarian issue. The administration is still waiting, perhaps—I am not absolutely sure about it—to see how the peace process develops.

[Ya'aqobi] Could there be a linkage between progress on the peace process and the loan guarantees?

[Ben-Aharon] We have not specifically heard the word linkage, but the issues are somewhat linked because we are talking about a whole complex of issues pertaining to one country. There have been signals from Washington. Some people have specifically told us: If you behave yourselves on the peace process, you will see that we will help you.

[Ganor] Does this attest to a disagreement between Washington and Jerusalem? You say there have been threats.

[Ben-Aharon] When talks get to sensitive issues, such as settlements and borders, which are the crux of the peace process and on which we and the United States do not see eye to eye, this certainly leads to a rise in temperature, in a manner of speaking. However, we should not make a fuss over it because the basis of our relationship, alliance, and strategic cooperation—I am repeating this for the record—is strong and firm. [passage omitted]

[Ganor] In light of your skepticism, and as one of the people taking part in the deliberations, do you feel that the region is on the brink of a real peace process?

[Ben-Aharon] I would like to state my personal opinion. I attach a great deal of importance to what an Arab leader tells his people in their own language to prepare them for peace and coexistence with Israel. The day I see action to that effect on the part of the leaders of our neighboring countries, I will start believing that something is budging in the direction of the peace and coexistence we yearn for. Today, I do not yet see it.

President Ford's Letter to Rabin on Golan Heights

TA2607065791 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 22 Jul 91 p A2

["Excerpts from President Ford's letter to Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin dated 1 September 1975"]

[Text] To Yitzhaq Rabin, Israel's Prime Minister,

Dear Prime Minister,

I would like to assure you that the United States will make every effort to fully meet Israel's needs in terms of military and other security equipment and of economic aid, within the budgetary constraints and allocations of Congress.

This, based on the requests to be submitted by Israel, joint studies, and previous presidential commitments.

Pursuant to those commitments, I am determined to uphold Israel's defense power by supplying it with sophisticated advanced equipment.

Every year the U.S. Administration will submit to Congress a request for military and economic aid to Israel.

The United States will support the position that a comprehensive agreement with Syria, in the framework of a peace treaty, should safeguard Israel's security against attacks from the Golan Heights.

Moreover, the United States also supports the position that a just and lasting peace, which remains the goal we are striving for, must be acceptable to both sides.

The United States has not formulated its final position on the question of the borders. If it does, it will lend great importance to Israel's position that any peace treaty with

Syria must be based on Israel's remaining on the Golan Heights. My view on the issue was expressed in our talk of 13 September 1974.

Sincerely yours, Gerald Ford.

Sharon, Knesset Members Warn Against Concessions

TA2507114491 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 25 Jul 91 p A2

[Report by Gid'on Alon]

[Excerpts] "The situation in which we now find ourselves is one of the most perilous Israel has faced for many years." This statement was made yesterday by Construction and Housing Minister Ari'el Sharon at an emergency meeting of the Knesset's Eretz Yisra'el lobby. Among the other participants were Ministers Refa'el Eytan, Rehav'am Ze'evi, and Avner Sciaki; Likud Knesset Members [MK's] Mikha'el Eytan, 'Uzi Landau, Yig'ael Hurvitz, Avraham Sharir, Yehuda Perah, Sha'ul 'Amor, and Yosi Goldberg; and Deputy Science Minister Ge'ula Kohen and MK's Gershon Shafat and Elyaqim Ha'etzni from the Tehiya. [passage omitted]

Sharon, who was invited to give the central speech, vehemently criticized the government's approach to the political process. "How did we reach the dangerous state in which we now find ourselves?," he asked. "We had two options: to raise the substantial issues and to make it categorically clear before starting anything that Jerusalem is the capital of the Jewish people and to clarify the exclusive rights of the Jewish people to all of Eretz Yisra'el—both to the west and east of the Jordan River—or to discuss procedural issues, which also comprise fundamental issues. Israel chose the second option.

"To our regret, facts have been created in the field and there has been a de facto Palestinian state east of the Jordan River for years. We should have stated in the clearest possible manner that no second Palestinian state would be established on the West Bank, in addition to the state that already exists, and that we would not lend our hand to the establishment of a corridor to that state."

Criticizing his fellow Cabinet members, Sharon addressed the future of the Golan Heights: "Ministers have been running from podium to podium declaring that everything is open for negotiation, in spite of the fact that the Knesset endorsed the Golan Law in December 1981. If someone wants to discuss the Golan Heights he must appear in the Knesset and get a majority in favor of giving up part of Eretz Yisra'el." [passage omitted]

Agriculture Minister Refa'el Eytan from Tzomet also expressed his total distrust of peace negotiations with Syria. "The Arab world has not changed, and its intentions remain the same—to destroy Israel," Eytan said. "The Arabs keep trying to do it through different tactics. Al-Asad is a dictator. Just as he has supposedly changed his mind now, he can change it 20 times a day, and Israel must not surrender its sovereignty to his whims." Minister Eytan asserted that "the Arab leadership does not want or need peace with Israel. They only want to see a weakened Israel. Our main deterrence against Syria is the Golan Heights, which is 50 km from Damascus. If we give back the Golan Heights we will be back to where we were before 1967, when we did not have one quiet day." [passage omitted]

Rehav'am Ze'evi [Moledet] said: "We have reached a decisive hour in the battle for Eretz Yisra'el. This struggle could go on for years, but we are in the final stage, which began with the infamous Camp David accords. The government should have demanded an end to the intifadah before starting peace negotiations."

Ze'evi noted that "there is a possibility that the government intends to capitulate. I hope that this will not happen, because I trust Shamir. I may be wrong, but the impression I have gotten from him in the six months I have been in the government is that he is trying to safeguard Eretz Yisra'el, albeit in a strange way, but he is still on guard." Ze'evi criticized Foreign Minister David Levi by saying that he had asked in the Cabinet why the foreign minister would represent Israel at the conference, if it were convened. "I received no answers, but I have the feeling that Levi, out of his eagerness to achieve peace, has forgotten that he was the one to invent the constraints." [passage omitted]

[Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew on 25 July in a page A3 report by Ehud Rabinowitz adds that "Construction and Housing Minister Ari'el Sharon yesterday declared that he would continue to create facts in the field by expanding the settlements in the Golan Heights and in Judaea and Samaria. 'In these days of weakness and confusion, this is the best guarantee against the plan,' he said."

["Commenting on the possibility of his resignation from the government if it crosses what he considers to be red lines, Sharon hinted that he would not hesitate to make such a decision, stating that 'regarding my possible resignation, I have proven in the past that I know how to find the right time and place.'"]

Moledet's Ze'evi To Advise Staying in Cabinet

TA2507122491 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1200 GMT 25 Jul 91

[Text] Minister Rehav'am Ze'evi says that the prime minister has reinforced his feeling and assessment that the prime minister will be steadfast in protecting Eretz Yisra'el. Today Ze'evi held an hour-long private talk with the prime minister.

Our correspondent Shlomo Raz notes that Ze'evi's remarks mean that when he appears tomorrow before the Moledet Executive Committee, he will recommend that Moledet remain in the government.

Analysis of Right-Wing Maneuvers on Peace Talks

TA2607110291 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1000 GMT 25 Jul 91

[Text] Moledet has called on the government not to let Foreign Minister David Levi represent Israel on his own at the peace conference and has come out in support of the prime minister. Our party affairs correspondent Yaron Deqel reports:

Is the right wing going to disband the government? We have been pondering this question for the past two days. A turning point, perhaps even a major one, occurred at noon today in our domestic political scene with regard to the political moves.

After Minister Rehav'am Ze'evi, Moledet's representative in the government, conferred with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir yesterday; the Moledet executive met today to hear a report and, if necessary, to make decisions. Moledet, the right-wing end player in this government, issued a communique saying it will back Yitzhaq Shamir as long as he stands steadfast on our right to Greater Israel. The communique adds that Moledet's representatives will continue to stay on the alert with regard to the political developments and will constantly assess the situation accordingly.

Another issue discussed by the Moledet executive is the possible participation in a regional peace conference. Moledet did not rule out the regional conference as a prologue to negotiations and as an opening act, and called on the prime minister to form a balanced Israeli delegation. By balanced, Moledet means that Foreign Minister David Levi should not be allowed to represent Israel on his own. Moledet, the most extreme right-wing partner in the government, was thus criticizing Foreign Minister Levi's positions and moves.

Such an emphatic position on the part of Moledet undoubtedly pulls the rug out from under the position presented by Tehiya two days ago. Tehiya had sounded some threatening notes to the effect that it would quit the government, but if Moledet stays in and supports the prime minister, what excuse could Tehiya have to leave the government? Presumably, Tehiya will put aside these threatening tunes in the next few days.

Right Wing Powerless To Bring Down Government

TA2307134191 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 23 Jul 91 p A1

['Aqiva Eldar commentary: "Shamir Can Afford It"]

[Text] Starting today, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir will be able to attend the peace conference without jeopardizing his government. Although 30 Knesset members can summon the house for an urgent debate during the summer recess, which starts today, they cannot file motions of no confidence. The extreme right-wing parties may quit the coalition in reaction to what they may regard as excessive flexibility on Shamir's part, but they will not be able to bring down his government.

The Labor Party also found itself in an odd situation: Shim'on Peres promised President George Bush and the Israeli public that he will not support any initiative by the extreme right to bring down the government over progress in the peace process. He declared that his party will support the government from the outside, the way it did during the vote on the Camp David accords. Shamir was given similar immunity from some of the other left-wing parties.

If the prime minister wishes, therefore, he will be able to maintain both the Likud government and the peace process even after the recess. He will be able to do that even without giving Peres, Rabin, and their associates the portfolios Ministers Yuval Ne'eman, Refa'el Eytan, and Rehav'am Ze'evi might return. If Shamir is willing to "take the risk" of walking the extra mile in the peace process, he can do that now under optimal conditions.

Over the past few days, there has been an increasing feeling that he will appear at the opening session, register the historic move toward peace in his name, and then, toward the end of the year, find some excuse to call early elections, while maintaining proper relations with the United States and, perhaps more importantly, obtaining the $10 billion in guarantees that are vitally needed for immigrant absorption.

His right-wing opponents will not be able to claim that he has abandoned his principles, because the early elections will cause negotiations to stop before any practical discussions are held. His left-wing opponents will have to deal with the old election slogan that haunts them to this day: "Only the Likud can." The Alignment will find it hard to blame Shamir for missing the opportunity to attain peace after he attends the first peace conference with Syria, Jordan, and the Palestinians. If Shamir runs the show with the same cool head he has ever since the peace process started, it may not result in peace with the Arabs—but a major victory for the Likud in the next Knesset elections is very probable.

Levi Says Baker To Visit When Deal Is Set

TA2607060991 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 26 Jul 91 p 1

[Report by David Makovsky]

[Text] U.S. Secretary of State James Baker is likely to return to Israel to nail down the Palestinian delegation for a Middle East peace conference, perhaps as soon as immediately after next week's U.S.-Soviet summit in Moscow, Foreign Minister David Levi told THE JERUSALEM POST yesterday.

In an interview with the POST on the eve of his visit to Egypt, Levi said he is waiting for Baker to bring to

Jerusalem a completed list of Palestinian delegates as such an agreed-upon list is essential before Israel gives its favorable reply to enter the peace talks.

Levi said, "It's possible that he (Baker) will come to summarize (the delegation). If it's not already put together, he will come to finalize it, possibly right after the summit."

Asked when Baker would arrive, Levi noted the summit dates but added, "He'll come when he's sure he can close the deal. And we want him to come when we're sure, and he's sure, that we can close the deal."

As it stands now, "We are waiting to hear from Baker if there is progress in putting it together...I'm waiting to receive an announcement that Baker has succeeded and that there is a (proposed) delegation, and we can see the list." Levi, like other ministers and senior officials, refused to enter into speculation on who would be on the list, but he said Baker knew and accepted Israel's insistence that it would not accept a delegate from East Jerusalem.

Levi said once the issue of the delegation is resolved, Israel will be able to tell the U.S. that it is indeed attending the conference.

When asked about procedural obstacles, such as Arab insistence on a UN presence and the reconvening of the conference, Levi discounted these issues.

Referring to the Palestinian delegation, he said, "This is the main problem; the rest of the things we'll overcome together."

The foreign minister also dismissed rightist critics who insist that the Golan Heights should not be on the agenda in any talks with Syria. Levi said Israel can be firm on its views about the territory without setting preconditions of its own.

"To ask a partner (to negotiations) to abandon its preconditions and then tell them they can't raise any issue they wish is not fair," Levi declared. He said, "We did not want pre-conditions, we won't make conditions...We'll come to the negotiations. Just as they have their positions, we will insist on ours. But what will be negotiated, and what the results will be, I suggest we do not involve ourselves with this (now). That sort of talk just wears you down."

Levi called Syria's agreement to hold direct talks with Israel a vindication of Israel's insistence on such an approach.

The foreign minister is flying to Cairo on Monday for a 48-hour visit, marking the first time such a senior person has been there since then defense minister Yitzhaq Rabin was there in September, 1989.

"Such visits should be natural between two countries at peace," he said, lamenting that such has not been the case. "Such visits contribute to a better atmosphere, and directly improve the prospects for peace," Levi declared.

He said he hoped to obtain an invitation for Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir to meet President Husni Mubarak, but he does not want to be held accountable if this should not work out. Mubarak has consistently refused to meet Shamir, saying he was awaiting progress on the peace process. However, with Israel seemingly on the verge of entering a Middle East peace process, there are new expectations by some that Mubarak would indeed agree to hold such a meeting.

Levi said he would invite his Egyptian counterpart, 'Amr Musa, to pay a reciprocal visit to Israel.

Palestinian Personality, Press on Peace Moves

Abu-'Ayyash on Prospects for Talks

TA2407143991 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 24 Jul 91 p 3

[Interview with Radwan Abu-'Ayyash, chairman of the Arab Journalists Association, by Yoram Binur; place and date not given]

[Text] [Binur] Have you seen the list of members of the Palestinian delegation for talks with Israel?

[Abu-'Ayyash] The list has been published, but there have been many lists. I have not been informed about an official decision on such a list.

[Binur] Does the exclusion of bearers of Jerusalem identity cards from the negotiations not indicate a concession on the part of the PLO?

[Abu-'Ayyash] No Palestinian body, whether inside or outside the territories, will be able to conduct real negotiations without a representation from Jerusalem. This issue has not only a Palestinian angle, but Arab, Islamic, and international angles.

[Binur] How do the refugees view the latest contacts?

[Abu-'Ayyash] The refugees are part of the Palestinian people, but they live under much harsher conditions. Everyone wants a solution, and the refugees would be the first to agree with this. At the same time, there is a feeling of distrust in the ability of the United States to find an honorable solution for us, and statements to this effect can be heard in the refugee camps as well.

I make no bones about the fact that all the bodies are currently embroiled in a very bitter discussion. The negotiations are at a sensitive stage, and they involve matters critical for us. We must carefully examine the pros and cons of entering or boycotting the negotiations. I understand the U.S. view that once the whole thing starts it will move on its own momentum, but we must be convinced that the next stage of talks does not conceal a land mine.

[Binur] What do you think about the change in Syria's stand?

[Abu-'Ayyash] The Syrians adopted this stand because of Arab and U.S. pressure. From their standpoint, several substantial issues have been fulfilled, but the main parties are the Palestinians and the Israelis.

[Binur] Do you believe the Israelis will remain constant in negotiating with you?

[Abu-'Ayyash] Shamir will never give land to the Palestinians. He wants us to be a minority and would like to see the Arabs of Ramallah fighting for equality with the Jews of 'Ofra, just as the Arabs in Nazareth are struggling to combat discrimination against them compared to the Jews of Upper Nazareth. For him the territories are Judaea and Samaria, not the West Bank. We believe that for us negotiations will be the second Camp David.

[Binur] Can you accept any of the Israeli offers?

[Abu-'Ayyash] They play the autonomy game with us, suggesting that on the one hand there will be an Arab mayor, but on the other hand they tell him not to dare even dream about setting the boundaries of his town's jurisdiction. This, more or less, is how we refer to most of the offers, which unfortunately are unrealistic.

[Binur] Is there anything that would guarantee you a positive development in the negotiations?

[Abu-'Ayyash] We are seeking guarantees against the possibility that the Israelis might torpedo the negotiations.

[Binur] From whom?

[Abu-'Ayyash] The Americans.

[In another interview with Arab affairs correspondent 'Uzi Mahanaymi on page 2 of Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew on 24 July, Abu-'Ayyash adds that the U.S. guarantees must be "serious," and that they must be offered "in writing" and address "Jerusalem and the settlements."]

Paper Urges Abstaining From Talks

TA2507195891 Jerusalem AL-NAHAR in Arabic 25 Jul 91 pp 1, 11

[Editorial: "Our People's Position in the 'Whirlpool' of Current Solutions"]

[Excerpts] There is no doubt that the peace offensive led by U.S. Secretary of State Baker has begun to move in the direction desired by Washington, as promised by President Bush. There is a persistence to end the Arab-Israeli conflict one way or another. The assumption is that the region's nations should express their appreciation for this concern by the world's only superpower. This has not yet happened, however, because ambiguity envelops the process launched by Washington. [passage omitted]

How can we be grateful to Washington when it is clearly in a hurry to put the Palestinian problem in a deep freeze and render it marginal, after it had been the Arabs' first problem?

But we have no right to reproach Washington. The path that Washington has taken is clear. If we must, we have to reproach the Arab states, which are complying with all of Washington's dictates. The Palestinians today are at a loss before Arab fragmentation and weakness. We have no right to blame Washington and Tel Aviv. What is being forced on us today is due to the Arab states, which have begun to feel that the Palestinian problem is a burden of which they should rid themselves. Washington exploited this Arab indifference, as well as discord and decline, to guarantee all of Israel's demands. Israel has always demanded direct negotiations without preconditions with the Arab states, and it obtained this. Baker proposed the U.S. plan—a dual-track solution of Arab-Israeli bilateral talks and Palestinian-Israeli talks. All the parties gave their consent to this plan. As to the Palestinian side, it was stripped of all its cards.

The conference neither requires that Israel withdraw from the occupied territories nor guarantees the Palestinian people's right to self-determination.

We should not deceive ourselves. The Palestinian situation is extremely critical. Our room for maneuver has narrowed. If we reject all the proposals, we will pay the price, and everyone will accuse us of foiling the peace initiatives. If we accept what has been proposed to us, the Palestinian problem will be reduced to one to be addressed by the "autonomy" plan inside the occupied territories.

The third possibility is neither to accept nor reject but to be absent from the conference and let the Arab parties try to reach a settlement through the Arab-Israeli approach. Should this approach succeed, the door will be open, and perhaps conditions will have been changed for the better. Let Syria try its luck. Maybe it will retrieve the Golan Heights. The Palestinian people have always said: Let Sinai and the Golan be before the Palestinian territories. Undoubtedly all these options are bitter and difficult. [passage omitted]

Shamir's Terms on Delegation Rejected

TA2507181891 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 24 Jul 91 p 7

[Editorial: "Once Again the Palestinian Delegation!"]

[Text] During an interview with Israeli television two nights ago, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir said he will not give a positive response to the U.S. Administration before obtaining clarifications from Washington about the makeup of the Palestinian delegation to the proposed peace conference.

Shamir has repeatedly stated that he will not agree to the participation of Jerusalem's Arab residents in the proposed Palestinian delegation and that he will not accept any official PLO representation. In light of the Israeli conditions, the United States has proposed a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation to circumvent the problems of the makeup of a Palestinian delegation.

Never in the history of disputes and settlements has one party in a conflict raised special conditions not only for the selection of members of its own delegation to the talks but also for that of the other party's delegation. Shamir's rejection of the participation of Jerusalem's Arab residents means that he is seeking to obtain some results from the negotiations before they even begin, since he considers Jerusalem an issue not subject to negotiations.

A great deal has been said in recent years about the makeup of the Palestinian delegation, and numerous parties have tried and are still trying to divide the Palestinian people by using the terms inside and outside. Things have reached a stage at which sometimes strange and amazing proposals have been made, such as the talk about persons with dual addresses. We are not sure what will come out of these proposals.

Formation of the Israeli delegation is an Israeli problem. The same applies to the Syrian, Egyptian, or U.S. delegations. The question here is this: What does it mean when they say that the formation of the Palestinian delegation is not a Palestinian problem? Why do some of the parties insist on checking the identity of the participants in the Palestinian delegation? Are peace negotiations normally held between friends or enemies?

Normally peace is established between enemies. The parties that are able to make peace must come to the negotiating table. If the parties that have taken part in various conflicts were to choose the negotiators of the other side, peace could never be made.

If the talk about peace is serious, we say that this is the time for rationality and statesmanship, not for proposals and conditions that are not connected in any way to peacemaking.

94 Percent Seek Palestinian State

TA2607104691 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1000 GMT 26 Jul 91

[Text] An opinion poll carried out in the territories shows that 94 percent of Palestinians support the creation of a Palestinian state, and 92 percent oppose autonomy. The poll was conducted by the East Jerusalem newspaper AL-MARAYA. According to the poll, more than 60 percent of those asked opposed Palestinian talks with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker; 70 percent believe American peace proposals will not solve the Palestinian problem.

'Secret' Decision To Give Settlers Free Land

TA2607081191 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 26 Jul 91 pp 1, 2

[By On Levi and Natan Ro'i]

[Excerpts] The cabinet has secretly approved Defense Minister Moshe Arens' recommendation to give land in the territories to settlers gratis. A decision to this effect was made a few months ago and is being implemented in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip.

The decision does not apply to settlements near Jerusalem, such as Ma'ale Adumim, Pisgat Ze'ev, and Giv'at Ze'ev. Responding to a question by DAVAR, Dani Nave, the defense minister's media adviser, confirmed that the defense minister has agreed to change the policy of land pricing in the territories and noted that the land in question is undeveloped, nonarable land. The decision was made at the joint recommendation of the defense minister and Construction and Housing Minister Ari'el Sharon, for the purpose of lowering the cost of housing in the settlements.

The two ministers' recommendation was approved by the cabinet a few months ago and described as secret—an apparent bid to avert serious repercussions in the political system. The decision actually gives land gratis to the settlers and thus becomes part of a series of benefits aimed at encouraging settlement in the territories. These benefits, which exceed those given within the boundaries of the Green Line, were revealed to the public by Knesset Members Hayim Oron and Dedi Zucker a few weeks ago. Their revelation, however, referred only to the generous mortgages given to settlers and did not mention the land that is actually being given gratis.

Natan Ro'i adds: Yehi'el Leqet, head of the Zionist Federation's Settlement Department, has confirmed that settlers in Judaea and Samaria do not pay for land, but pay for development and infrastructure. According to Leqet, the resolution refers to urban settlements built by the do-it-yourself method. The rule in those cases is to subtract the cost of the land from the overall price. [passage omitted]

It transpires that while the government is on the verge of joining political negotiations—with Minister Sharon as Prime Minister Shamir's chief critic and Minister Arens as the key activist in Shamir's camp and perhaps Shamir's favorite successor—Arens and Sharon have joined forces in a plan to discriminate in favor of settlers over other citizens who want to buy houses in Israel and to conceal their actions from the Knesset.

30,000 Housing Units Said Planned for Territories

TA2507154591 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 25 Jul 91 p 4

[Report by Shlomo Dror]

[Excerpts] The Construction and Housing Ministry has reported plans to build 13,000 housing units, including

mobile homes, in the territories. The ministry refused to provide a breakdown per settlement.

Citizens Rights Movement Knesset Member [MK] Dedi Zucker and MAPAM [United Workers Movement] MK Hayim Oron say that this figure includes only 1,000 mobile homes. According to them, the territories are in the midst of a massive construction drive, with the total figure standing at about 30,000 housing units—rather than 13,000—some of which have already been completed. They contend that right-wing MK's have cited much higher figures.

Data collected in the field show that 2,000 housing units are to be built in Qatif Bloc in the coming year. The addition means 10,000 more inhabitants in a region currently populated by 3,000.

Expansion is continuing on the West Bank as well, and almost every settlement in the territories is in the process of development. In Efrat, where 600 live, a new 500-unit neighborhood in the process of accelerated development, with 300 housing units in progress and 120 scheduled to be started within a few months. The Construction and Housing Ministry is currently completing plans for the construction of 1,000 housing units in northern Efrat as part of the plan for greater Jerusalem.

Another part of the greater Jerusalem plan includes the expansion of Ma'ale Adumim. In an apartment fair held there only a week ago, about 1,000 apartments were bought on the spot. Also, three settlements—Reyhan, Hinanit, and Shaqed—situated east of Wadi 'Ara are undergoing accelerated development at the conclusion of which the three are to be united.

As for new settlements, there is a plan to establish one named 'Ofarim, which will link with Bet Arye. It will comprise 2,400 housing units. In addition, an ultraorthodox settlement by the name of Qiryat Sefer is planned to straddle the Green Line, and another settlement, Shoham, to straddle the Green line in the Modi'in region.

Oron and Zucker claim that the purpose of the Construction and Housing Ministry's building in the territories for the ultraorthodox community is to create a commitment of the ultraorthodox parties to their constituency on the territories issue. The two MK's have appealed to Deputy Construction and Housing Minister Avraham Ravitz, demanding complete details on construction in the territories.

Documents received by the Peace Now movement show that some 40 percent of advanced technology housing construction is designed for settlements.

It was learned that out of some 4,000 planned housing units to be built with sophisticated construction methods, 3,840 will be in the territories and only 241 units inside the Green Line. [passage omitted] Peace Now spokesman 'Eran Hayat has said that advanced construction techniques are faster than conventional processes. He added that Construction and Housing Minister Ari'el Sharon is thus accelerating the rate of building in the territories. [passage omitted]

Rabin—Labor Should Not 'Crawl' to Unity Rule

TA2507154291 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1400 GMT 25 Jul 91

[Excerpts] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir has no intention whatsoever of inviting the Labor Party to join a unity government. If the coalition were to face a crisis over the political process, Shamir would opt for calling an early election, senior Likud sources stated today.

Knesset Member Yitzhaq Rabin says the Labor Party should not crawl to a unity government. [passage omitted]

[Begin recording] [Rabin] If as a result of the U.S. approach to the Shamir government the right-wing parties bolt the government, the Labor Party would support the government's move. The Labor Party would examine its positions when the regional conference is summoned. It would not topple or join a motion to topple the government as long as the process was under way.

[Party affairs correspondent Yaron Deqel] With regard to economic issues as well or would you just support the government with regard to the peace process? If the Citizens Rights Movement were to submit a motion of no confidence in the government over the economic issue, would you then vote in favor of toppling the government?

[Rabin] We will support the continuation of the peace process. I do not want to go into details. We will not support settlements, if a settlement wave is decided. We will support the government to accomplish one thing: to exhaust the chances of promoting peace.

[Deqel] And what about the Labor Party's joining the government in the event that the right-wing parties quit the coalition?

[Rabin] I do not think this is a realistic possibility. In any event, the Labor Party should not crawl to a national unity government. What I see today looks to me like somebody in the Labor Party crawling toward such a government, without the authoritative approval of our party's institutions.

[Deqel] Are you referring to the party chairman?

[Rabin] I do not want to mention any names. If the Likud sees the need to integrate the Labor Party into the national unity government, let it approach us and we will think about it. [passage omitted]

Peres Denies Reports of Unity Government Feelers

TA2507043191 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0400 GMT 25 Jul 91

[Text] There are more and more reports about contacts and feelers aimed at reviving the unity government. The Likud says there have been appeals from Labor Party leaders, led by Shim'on Peres himself, to reestablish the unity government.

Minister Gid'on Pat told our correspondent Shlomo Raz that a senior Labor Party source appealed to him on the matter. Yosi Ahime'ir, director of the prime minister's bureau, also referred to appeals by Labor Party figures, but said that the government is not disbanding and that the unity government idea is not on the agenda.

Shim'on Peres totally denied the reports, saying: I have not proposed and am not proposing a unity government. The Labor Party will support the government if it responds affirmatively to the Baker initiative, Peres said.

Majority for Positive Response to U.S. Initiative

TA2607115291 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 26 Jul 91 pp A1, 2

[Teleseqer Research Institute poll conducted for MA'ARIV]

[Text] Over 70 percent of the public believe that Israel should respond affirmatively to the U.S. initiative and join a regional peace conference.

This is one of the findings of a poll commissioned by MA'ARIV and conducted by the Teleseqer Research Institute, directed by Dori Shadmon. The poll further reveals that 47.5 percent believe Israel must not give up the Golan Heights, even if Syria proves ready to establish peace with Israel, while 39 percent think Israel should be ready to give up parts of the Golan.

The interviewees were asked: "Do you think that, under the present circumstances, Israel should respond positively to the U.S. initiative by joining a regional peace conference for the Middle East, or should it reject it?" The replies were as follow: 70.3 percent supported a favorable response, and 11.8 percent said Israel should reject the initiative.

The second question was: "To what extent do you believe that there has been a genuine change in the Syrian stand with respect to its willingness to establish peace with Israel?" Some 12.4 percent replied they had great belief; 27.7 percent, moderate belief; 25.1 percent, little belief; and 26.9 percent, none.

Another question was: "If Syria shows willingness to achieve peace with Israel, how do you think Israel should act with respect to the Golan Heights?" The replies were: 47.5 percent, no concessions whatsoever on the Golan Heights; 39 percent, Israel should be ready to cede parts of the Golan; 5.7 percent, Israel should be ready to give up all of the Golan.

Portrayal of Syria as Confrontation State Shelved

TA2407102091 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 24 Jul 91 p A1

[By Eytan Rabin]

[Excerpt] Government ministers have ordered the shelving of a plan, on which work had already begun, which was to have presented Syria as a confrontation state involved in terrorism and arming itself with the latest conventional and nonconventional weapons.

A few days ago, when reports began to come in about President Hafiz al-Asad's affirmative response to the U.S. peace initiative, it was decided to prepare a plan which would present Syria as it appears to Israeli eyes.

According to the plan, there were to have been background briefings and interviews to Israeli and foreign media with the aim of presenting Syria as a confrontation state which threatens Israel with its stepped-up arms procurement. It was planned to disclose Syrian involvement in terrorism, especially in Lebanon, and its support for the pro-Syrian terrorist organizations. [passage omitted]

Egypt Urged To Promote Peace, Convince Arabs

TA2607103591 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1000 GMT 26 Jul 91

[Text] Foreign Ministry Director Yosef Hadas has said that in his visit to Cairo next week, the foreign minister will call on Egypt to normalize relations between Shamir and Mubarak, the leaders of the two countries. Hadas also called on Egypt to help convince the Arab states to accept the idea of a compromise and advance toward peace with Israel while pointing to the example of the peaceful relations it developed with Israel. In Mr. Hadas' view, the upcoming visit to Cairo is important in view of the current situation in the political process wherein the Arab states are prepared to talk to us.

Chief of Staff on Developments in Lebanon

TA2507152291 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1400 GMT 25 Jul 91

[Text] The Lebanese Government has not yet disarmed the Palestinians of their medium and heavy weapons and has not begun to disarm the Shiite organizations, Chief of Staff Lieutenant General Ehud Baraq asserted today on an IDF Radio phone-in program for future army recruits.

Baraq also commented on the ultimatum to Iraq, which expires today, saying there will not be an immediate military operation against Iraq. Our correspondent Ro'i Grunwald reports:

[Begin recording] [Grunwald] Lt. Gen. Baraq said that the Lebanese Government has been quite successful in enforcing its sovereignty over parts of Lebanon. Nevertheless, al-Hirawi's regime is having trouble disarming the Palestinians and the Shiite organizations.

[Baraq] As far as we can see, the Palestinians have only been partially disarmed of their medium and heavy weapons and have not even begun to hand over their light weapons. The process has not started with Amal or Hizballah. Therefore, the Lebanese Government has a very long way to go before it enforces its sovereignty and authority in Lebanon, which is a prerequisite for stopping terrorist attacks from Lebanese territory. Based on our experience, I think we should wait and see how the Lebanese Government progresses and weigh our steps accordingly, and not vice versa.

[Grunwald] On the day the ultimatum to Iraq to disclose its nuclear secrets ends, the chief of staff believes that there will be no immediate move to use force, since this would necessitate broad international agreement.

[Baraq] Just in case, we are following developments cautiously. The Israeli Army is taking all precautions for a possible use of force against Iraq. I would not like to elaborate on the nature of these precautions. If we consider it necessary to update the public or to take action, we will do so in due time and in coordination with all the pertinent elements.

[Grunwald] Referring to the intifadah, the chief of staff noted that it is constantly changing its face. We are witnessing a drop in the volume of street violence and a rise in the use of grenades and firebombs. This terror should be dealt with through a combination of intelligence work and nonconventional activity, Chief of Staff Ehud Baraq stated. [end recording]

Shamir Accepts Invitation To Visit Bulgaria

TA2307112291 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1100 GMT 23 Jul 91

[Text] The Bulgarian foreign minister conferred this morning with Prime Minister Shamir and invited him to pay a reciprocal visit to Sofia. Mr. Shamir thanked him for the invitation and stressed that although this will be his first to Bulgaria, he feels a special attachment to this country because his wife was born in Sofia. The prime minister reviewed the peace process for the guest and said he hopes we are on the verge of a period of negotiations with our neighbors.

Transport Cooperation Accord Signed

TA2607105091 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1000 GMT 26 Jul 91

[Text] Israel and Bulgaria have signed a cooperation agreement in the field of transport. According to the agreement, Bulgaria will sell Israel railway and aeronautical equipment, and Israel will in turn provide Bulgaria with maintenance services and information.

A Qol Yisra'el reporter says the two countries are investigating the possibilities of joint projects and the construction of a land bridge from the Far East to Europe via Israel and Bulgaria.

Ne'eman, Nigerian Minister Discuss Cooperation

TA2407153191 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1000 GMT 24 Jul 91

[Text] Science and Energy Minister Yuval Ne'eman has met with Nigerian Water Resources Minister Abubakar Hashidu. The Science Ministry says the Nigerian minister proposed cooperation with Israel in a number of fields. Israel would help Nigeria with the development of its water resources, use of solar energy, and training of Nigerian personnel. The Nigerian minister also proposed cooperation in research on fish breeding.

Nigeria is one of the African countries that has not yet restored diplomatic relations with Israel. Since it is the most important and populous state in west Africa, it is viewed in Jerusalem as a major target for Israeli diplomacy.

Investigation Reveals 'Criminal Organization'

Group Planned Attacks

JN2507161391 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1504 GMT 25 Jul 91

[Text] An official source has stated the following:

On Thursday morning, 11 July 1991, the life of a security officer was the target of a criminal attack. An explosive charge was placed in his private car while it was parked in front of his home so as to blow it up upon ignition. The attack resulted in severe injuries to the officer, who had to have a leg amputated. He is still undergoing treatment. An investigation of the criminal attack by security forces turned up a criminal organization whose members have confessed to it, as well as to other attacks and surveillance of civilian targets over the past few months. They have also made detailed confessions about how they went about planning their crimes. It emerged that the organization is made up of a group that alternately calls itself "the Mujahidin for God" and "the Army of Muhammad." The organization had transacted arms purchases and smuggling, and trained its members on the use of arms with the objective of carrying out criminal acts to destabilize Jordan.

Based on conclusive evidence and documented confessions of members of the organization, it also emerged that they carried out a number of criminal operations during the past few months. These included stabbing a Government Department sentry; committing arson at six commercial locations in Amman, Irbid, al-Karak, and al-Zarqa"; opening fire or planting explosive charges at some banking establishments; detonating a private car in the Bayadir Wadi al-Sir district resulting in its owner's 12-year-old daughter having to undergo an amputation; planting an explosive charge in the public utility of the al-'Umari Mosque in Amman.

Members of the organization have further admitted that they were planning attacks on a number of economic and official establishments, and certain government officials. These included stalking the homes of a House of Representatives deputy, an ambassador, and a number of security officers to prepare for their assassination; reconnoitering a number of commercial premises and government departments in Amman in preparation for their detonation; planning a suicidal attack on a security forces building.

The organization was found to be in possession of the following weapons and explosives: An assortment of 62 machineguns; an assortment of 10 revolvers equipped with silencers; 30 kg of home- made exlosives along with equipment for their manufacture and activation; a miscellany of 15 hand grenades and 30 Molotov cocktails; binoculars for observation and sniping.

The investigation revealed that the organization was partly funded by donations raised from the general public under the pretense of supporting the mujahidin in Afghanistan and Palestine.

Coinciding as they do with considerable efforts by the leadership, people, and institutions of Jordan to bolster the democratic course, establish constitutional freedom, and safeguard the security of the homeland and people, these criminal acts amount to irresponsible behavior contrary to the noble values of our people and their march, and are indicative of the rancor of an illegitimate faction that received training and instructions from across the border. We are confident that public awareness and the alertness of security forces are safety valves for national security and the sovereignty of the law.

Editorial Chides Organization

JN2607072891 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 26 Jul 91 p 1

[Unattributed editorial: "They Want To Assassinate Democracy"]

[Text] We were not surprised by the discovery of a cowardly criminal organization perpetrating crimes, sabotage, and everything else to shake and torpedo national security and stability.

The democratic life that Jordan enjoys and for which it has become an oasis incites the rancors of the enemies and their agents inside and outside Jordan. Hence, they express their rancor through cowardly crimes against citizens, innocent employees, and vigilant security men who are always alert and ready to protect the security of the homeland and the citizenry.

They express their rancor by translating into action the enemy's instructions to commit treacherous criminal acts against national civil and economic institutions and installations in an attempt to sabotage and strike at the national economy, create unrest, and cast doubt about the administration of these institutions.

We were not surprised to learn that evil had been planted in the country to thwart our young democratic experiment in the hope of assassinating it and taking Jordan back into the past, thus destroying the strong bridges between leaders and people.

The democratic changes in the country and the winds sweeping across this oasis into the various areas of the region with the promise of change and the establishment of political pluralism, have raised the enemies' anxiety, wrath, and rancor. Hence they recruited weak and cowardly souls harboring evil and treason in their hearts, and gave them money and weapons to abort this pioneering democratic experiment, and to undermine Jordan's vanguard role on the Arab and international arenas to marshall support and backing for crucial Arab issues, foremost being the Palestine question. This misled

group—which covers its hateful conspiratorial intentions against this secure country and its proud people under Islamic slogans and names, and hides under the guise of religion and struggle to tarnish them—is a part of the hostile campaign against Jordan and its pioneering pan-Arab role.

Otherwise, what is the meaning of this misled group's strikes and evil acts against innocent citizens, vital installations and institutions, and the vigilant men ready to protect the country's security and stability?

These traitors and hirelings recruited to serve the enemies of our people and nation must be struck with an iron fist and taught the lesson they deserve so that they will be an example for the others. Let these criminals and those behind them know that steadfast Jordan is impregnable and strong, and that cowardly hands will not be able to tamper with its security and stability.

Arab League Head Holds Official Talks, Departs

JN2507133791 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 25 Jul 91

[Text] His Highness Crown Prince Hasan received Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid this morning. Present were Prime Minister Tahir al-Masri and Foreign Minister Dr. 'Abdallah al-Nusur.

They concentrated in their talks on cooperation between Jordan and the Arab League, the Arab League's role in activating and strengthening joint Arab action, and the Arab-European dialogue in the coming stage.

Prime Minister Tahir al-Masri also received Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid in his office this morning. Foreign Minister Dr. 'Abdallah al-Nusur was present during the meeting. They reviewed current Arab affairs and the Arab League's role in facing the challenges before the Arab nation which require unity of action, marshalling of potential, and closing of ranks. The prime minister confirmed that Jordan supported and backed the Arab League in realizing cooperation and joint Arab action.

The Arab League secretary general left Amman today, concluding a two-day visit during which he met with His Majesty King Husayn and ranking Jordanian officials.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid talked to reporters prior to his departure at noon. He said his talks with His Majesty King Husayn, His Highness Crown Prince Hasan, Prime Minister Tahir al-Masri, and Foreign Minister 'Abdallah al-Nusur were productive and positive, and that they had realized their goals and objectives.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid expressed the hope that the Arab atmosphere can be cleared, Arab ranks closed, and joint Arab action bolstered. He noted that his next tour will include the Arab Maghreb and will begin within the next two weeks.

Daily Blames U.S. for Escalation of Settlements

JN2607082991 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 26 Jul 91 pp 1, 14

[Unattributed editorial: "U.S. Peace Efforts Yield More Jewish Settlements"]

[Text] Yitzhaq Shamir's recent statements leave no room for the slightest doubt that Israel—which has not yet responded to U.S. proposals—continues to be intransigent concerning the conditions for convening the proposed peace conference, despite all the optimism the U.S. secretary of state tried to project following his fifth tour of the region.

If the recent Israeli statements are not enough to support such a conclusion, settlement activities—which escalated following James Baker's visit—prove that Israel still rejects the peace option because such an option could open the door for the implementation of the principles of international legitimacy and the UN Security Council resolutions that call for exchanging land for peace.

Instead, anyone listening to Shamir and his group comes to an essential fact: namely, that Israel seeks a complete Arab capitulation in which Arabs assent to Israel's occupation and permanent control over the West Bank, the Gaza Strip, and the Golan Heights, not to mention occupied Arab Jerusalem.

This extreme intransigence does not suprise us in the region, but what is really surprising is that the U.S. Administration, the originator of the Middle East peace initiative, receives all these Israeli statements and actions with a continuing policy of appeasement and turns a blind eye, as if Americans were not the originators of the diplomatic initiative or champions of international legitimacy.

Suffice it to examine the U.S. policy of leniency and indulgence toward Israeli intransigence to realize that this policy tempted and encouraged the leader of the diehard right wing in Israel to launch a series of settlement drives of such an extent that now, after five visits by the U.S. secretary of state to the region to establish peace, we no longer see other than this growing number of settlements being built on a daily basis in the occupied territories.

In this connection, as we see the U.S. endeavor in the region coming close to crashing against the rock of Israeli intransigence and rejection, we cannot absolve the United States itself of the responsibility for the failure of a new chance for peace in the Middle East. We also hold the United States responsible for encouraging Israeli settlement to the point where their establishment is escalating in the Arab occupied territories.

Iraqi-Jordan Transport Company Ends Meeting

JN2607084391 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1530 GMT 25 Jul 91

[Text] Amman, 25 Jul (PETRA)—The General Assembly of the Iraqi-Jordanian Land Transport Company concluded its meeting here today. The sessions were cochaired by 'Ali al-Suhaymat, deputy prime minister and minister of transport and communications, and 'Abd-al-Sattar al-Ma'ini, Iraqi minister of transport and communications, who signed the minutes of the meeting.

The minutes include the General Assembly's endorsement of the final accounts and general budget for 1990. Revenues reached 11.5 million dinars while expenses amounted to 10.1 million dinars. Thus, the company's net profit for 1990 was 1.4 million dinars.

The General Assembly also approved the working plan and estimated budget for 1991. The expected revenues are estimated at 10.2 million dinars while the expenses are estimated at 8.7 million dinars. Therefore, the estimated net profit for the current year is approximately 1.5 million dinars.

The General Assembly discussed the company's future working plan and the way to develop its activities in transporting commodities between Jordan and Iraq so that the company may become an example for joint Arab companies.

Report Claims Hostages To Be Released Aug-Sep

PM2507130491 London AL-HAWADITH in Arabic 26 Jul 91 p 8

[Unattributed report: "Hostages To Be Released Early August"]

[Text] AL-HAWADITH has learned that the hostage issue in Lebanon is now receiving very close attention following the success of talks held by Western representatives in Tehran, Damascus, and Beirut over the past few days. To maintain secrecy, these talks were not announced.

Available information indicates that the date for the hostage release has been decided in principle. It will take place in three stages starting at the beginning of August and ending in September.

Buwayz Says Iran's Help Sought in Hostage Issue

LD2507192491 Hamburg DPA in German 1837 GMT 25 Jul 91

[Text] Beirut (DPA)—Lebanese Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz, in an interview with DPA, described the threats from terrorist groups as "tactical maneuvers" within the secret negotiations with the kidnappers on freeing the German hostages. He also pointed out that Beirut has officially asked the Iranian leadership for help in solving the hostage problem and in "liberating Lebanon from this burden." Kidnapping in Lebanon means economic disadvantages and a limiting of its sovereignty.

Besides Struebig and Kemptner, six Americans, three Britons, and an Italian are still in the hands of kidnappers.

Karami Discusses Peace Conference, South

NC2507180891 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 25 Jul 91

[Text] Prime Minister 'Umar Karami has stated that some basic principles have been established during recent cabinet meetings. Ministers held meetings with their senior aides today to discuss ways of improving their performance.

In a meeting with reporters at Government House today, the prime minister said that the ministerial meetings will be resumed in 15 days, after the cabinet completes forming the committees that will report on various ministries. Karami said that administrative reform is not a simple matter, and he noted that the government's task is to carry out reforms, not make appointments. He described the principles on which the cabinet agreed during eight successive meetings as basic. Prime Minister Karami said that Lebanon's participation in an international peace conference would be to implement UN Security Council Resolution 425.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified correspondent] Mr. Prime Minister, on what grounds did Lebanon decide to participate in the international conference? Has Resolution 425 changed?

[Karami] Our statement was clear. We are an Arab country, and all the Arab countries have decided to attend the conference. What we are saying is this. We have Resolution 425 which is clear, definite, and frank in calling for [word indistinct] Israeli withdrawal. We are not going to discuss it; we are going to ask that it be implemented, nothing more. It is not subject to discussion. We are attending the conference as an Arab country. There is a general trend toward peace and to the holding of a peace conference. We cannot say we do not want to attend it. We have no other problem. Our only problem is the implementation of this resolution.

[Correspondent] Does this mean that Lebanon and Israel are not at war?

[Karami] We have the 1949 truce, which is all we need. That is why we were very specific; we did not want to leave any room for interpretations. The only problem we have with Israel is the implementation of the resolution. As for Resolutions 242 and 338, there is room for give and take and discussions about territory, Jerusalem, water, and so forth. We have no problem with this. We are going to the conference to assist the Arab countries in all their problems. Our issue is totally different. We have no problem, nor is Israel saying that Lebanese territory is part of any of its dreams or designs. I was surprised by an article by Talal Salman [chief editor of Beirut daily AL-SAFIR] [words indistinct]. Now that all the Arab countries have decided to go to the conference, do you want me to say I alone will not go?

[Correspondent] How far have the ("contacts) regarding Jazzin gone?

[Karami] I want to say this again. The media is blowing this issue all out of proportion. The issue is being represented as if our demand to regain Jazzin is separate from Resolution 425 and that is not right. We will continue focusing on Resolution 425 because it is not right to make our demands piecemeal. All the territory of the south is a single unit. Why should you say Jazzin, not Hasbayya, for example? Hasbayya is in the same situation as Jazzin, right? [end recording]

Al-Husayni: No Reason To Hold Talks With PLO

NC2607095691 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 0900 GMT 26 Jul 91

[Text] Chamber of Deputies Speaker Husayn al-Husayni sees no justification for a political dialogue between Lebanon and the PLO. He questioned the value of such a dialogue and wondered what good it could do. He said that Lebanon's commitment to the Palestinian people's cause is not the result of an agreement between it and anyone else.

Al-Husayni expressed the belief that the Palestinians will facilitate the extension of state sovereignty. He said: We urge everyone to make it easy for us to do what we have decided to do and to spare the state from having to use force.

In an interview, al-Husayni said he expected that UN Security Council Resolution 425 would be implemented by the beginning of next year. He noted that the international community cannot allow its credibility over its commitment to these resolutions to be undermined, particularly at this time.

DFLP's Zaydan Meets Shams-al-Din, al-Amin

NC2507112991 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1030 GMT 25 Jul 91

[Text] Today Salih Zaydan, member of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, called on Shaykh Muhammad Shams-al-Din, deputy chairman of the Higher Islamic Shiite Council, and State Minister 'Abdallah al-Amin. They discussed Lebanese and Palestinian developments.

After the meetings, Zaydan noted the joint desire to normalize Lebanese-Palestinian relations. He said he discussed the issue of restoring normal life in the Tyre camps, ending the extraordinary measures around them, releasing Palestinian detainees, and initiating a discussion on the social and civil rights of the Palestinian people in Lebanon. He noted the right of the resistance to confront the Israeli occupation. Zaydan revealed that Minister al-Amin showed complete understanding, explaining that positive results regarding pending issues will appear in the coming days.

'Guerrillas' Attack South Lebanese Army Positions

NC2507134391 Paris AFP in English 1320 GMT 25 Jul 91

[Text] Jerusalem, July 25 (AFP)—Guerrillas early Thursday attacked positions of the Israeli-backed South Lebanon Army in southern Lebanon on the border of the "security zone" controlled by the Jewish state, military sources said here. The pre-dawn machine gun and missile assault near the village of Ra's al-Bayyadah was countered by the pro-Israeli forces, they said. There were no immediate reports of casualties.

'Hundreds' of Hizballah Gunmen Reportedly in South

NC2607053091 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0445 GMT 26 Jul 91

[Text] Security sources in southern Lebanon reveal that hundreds of Hizballah gunmen are deployed in western al-Biqa', Iqlim al-Tuffah, and in the Tyre area. The sources add that the Israeli forces and the South Lebanese Army have brought in tank reinforcements to confront the Hizballah deployment.

Al-Shar', Eyskens on Palestinian Representation

Pre-Departure News Conference

JN2507180591 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in Arabic 1734 GMT 25 Jul 91

[Text] Belgian Foreign Minister Mark Eyskens left Damascus today following a three-day visit to Syria. He was seen off at Damascus International Airport by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', senior Foreign Ministry officials, Syria's ambassador in Brussels Miss Siba Nasir, and Belgian Ambassador in Damascus Andre Vokaer. Al-Shar' and Eyskens held a news conference at Damascus International Airport attended by Arab, Syrian, and international news media correspondents.

At the outset of the news conference, Mr. Eyskens praised President Hafiz al-Asad's positive stand toward the U.S. proposals on giving momentum to the peace process in the Middle East region. He also expressed gratitude for Syria's hospitality and the benefits he gained as a result of his talks in Damascus. He added: My visit and that of my European colleagues will promote our relations and will allow the EC to implement the cooperation agreements on which we held negotiations in 1977. Two financial agreements have been signed. I believe that this marks the beginning of a new stage between the EEC and Syria.

Asked about the European role in the peace conference and the quality of this participation, whether in the capacity of a participating supervisor or an observer, and what the specific nature of this participation will be, and how he will use his economic weight to push the conference in a certain direction, Mr. Eyskens said: This role will not be that of a participating supervisor, or merely that of a negative observer. We want to play a role and be an effective participant. We believe that the EC can play an important role. We will do our utmost, as Europeans, to make this conference succeed, especially since it is very important that this conference be held soon to achieve a peaceful settlement.

Faruq al-Shar' was asked about Syria's position on the Palestinian representation in a forthcoming peace conference, amid reports of a U.S.-Israeli agreement on the form of Palestinian representation in the conference that excludes all those outside the occupied territories and from East Jerusalem: What does Syria think about this agreement and how would this affect your position on the Palestinian representation?

Al-Shar' responded by saying: During the talks we held with Mr. Baker, we did not conclude that there is such an agreement between Israel and the United States. Our position in Syria is that Israel does not have the right to choose, or decide, the Palestinian representation in a peace conference, and that Palestinians must decide who is to represent them.

Both Support UN Resolutions

JN2507205191 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2020 GMT 25 Jul 91

[Excerpts] Belgian Foreign Minister Mark Eyskens left Damascus today following a three-day visit to Syria. [passage omitted]

At the news conference held prior to his departure, Mr. Eyskens was asked about future ventures and the two protocols agreed on with Syria and the extent to which they will be implemented. He said: These protocols are worth between $160-$170 million. Regarding future projects, the current talks cover what we plan to do next month.

Asked for his comment on Shamir's statements rejecting a linkage between withdrawal from the territories and peace, Mr. al-Shar' said: The occupied Arab land will have to be returned to the Arabs, and any comprehensive, political settlement must clearly be the product of the peace conference. UN Security Council Resolution 242 expressly points out the inadmissibility of the acquistion of territory by force or war. The Arab territories, whose return we are demanding, were occupied by the use of force, irrespective of Israeli interpretations.

Asked about the EC's interpretation of Resolution 242, Mr. Eyskens said: We have said on many occasions that the peace conference must be based on Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338. We therefore subscribe to U.S. proposals predicated on these two resolutions.

Asked what the EC position would be if Israel were to insist at a peace conference on not withdrawing, Mr. Eyskens said: This insistence would block the road to the conference and torpedo the great efforts that have been exerted to convene it. Despite this, I am now optimistic about the outset of the peace process.

Asked about alternatives if Israel refused peace demands, Foreign Minister al-Shar' said: The references will be to UN Resolutions 242 and 338 to hold a peace conference. At such a conference, there will be the United States, the USSR, the European states, and the United Nations. All these states, particularly the United States, will do their best to guarantee the success of the conference. In other words, to guarantee the implementation of Resolution 242. If Israel attempted to obstruct or foil this process, then I believe that there would be great material and moral pressure on the Israeli side to accept the principles of international legality and implement the UN Security Council resolutions.

Al-Shar' added: I heard statements by European leaders to the effect that in the event that the peace process is obstructed, everything would be referred to the UN Security Council. When the issue is referred to the UN Security Council, then this means a serious development, and Israel will be responsible for its results. In the Gulf crisis, the whole world took a unified position to implement the UN Security Council resolutions. We are

talking about uniform standards and about an international legality that must be applied to all conflicts in the world, at the head of which is the Arab-Israeli conflict. This is because we go to a peace conference in broad daylight, not in darkness.

Answering a question on whether the U.S. seriousness of purpose was behind Syria's positive stand, al-Shar' said: Yes, in addition to the fact that the United States, for the first time, as we believe, speaks about a comprehensive settlement, when it always spoke about unilateral settlements. We used to reject these unilateral settlements for reasons that you know. This is the first time President Bush speaks in his letter about a just and comprehensive settlement, based on Resolutions 242 and 338 and the land-for-peace principle, and the application of these to all fronts. President Bush also emphasizes that geography cannot achieve Israel's security. This means that occupation will not give security to Israel. This U.S. position has given us a ray of hope on the possibility of reaching a just and comprehensive peace in the region.

Peace Efforts Said 'Not in Harmony' With Israel

JN2607090591 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0825 GMT 26 Jul 91

[Text] Damascus, 26 Jul (SANA)—In a commentary today, AL-THAWRAH says that peace efforts, objectives, and means are not in harmony with Israel's ambitions. Therefore, the paper adds, international legitimacy should openly declare its position and use the appropriate methods to save the march of peace.

The paper notes in its commentary that Israel's policy is based on the ideology of aggression, occupation, expansion, settlement- building, and bringing in hundreds of thousands of Jews from around the world. The paper adds that the Zionists exploit regional and international circumstances to abort peaceful solutions and dash the hopes of the whole world in these efforts.

AL-THAWRAH compares the Arabs' peaceful stance in regard to the U.S. proposals with Israel's obstruction of peace by saying: The positive Syrian reply to these proposals gave new momentum to international legitimacy. Meanwhile, Israel resorted and is still resoring to its traditional policy based on maneuvering, deception, and procrastination.

Concluding the commentary, AL-THAWRAH says: In view of this contradiction and the exposure of the real Israeli policy, international legitimacy should hold Israel responsible for obstructing the march of peace. International legitimacy should also make Israel respect UN principles and its charter, and accept all the resolutions before it is too late.

AL-BA'TH Sees No Logic in Israeli Conditions

JN2607092191 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0800 GMT 26 Jul 91

[Text] Damascus, 26 Jul (SANA)—AL-BA'TH has strongly denounced the claims of Israeli leaders about the concept of peace, and has stressed that these claims are like putting the cart before the horse.

In a commentary in this regard, the paper points to the Shamir government's conditions for peace. The paper says: This government does not want conditions for peace to guarantee rights based on international legitimacy. This is the flagrant essence of this strange paradox.

The paper asks how is it that the Israeli Government imposes its conditions, yet the conditions are that the Arabs impose no conditions. How does this government reject UN resolutions at a time when it calls on international organizations to renege on their opposition to the unjust Zionist policy? What peace does Shamir want in light of his repeated rejection of any peace based on the withdrawal of the Israeli forces from the Golan, Jerusalem, the West Bank, and the Gaza Strip?

The paper holds the world responsible for curbing Israeli designs. AL-BA'TH says: If the world does not have a say, Israel's leaders will burn the world in the name of the Torah and their intransigent beliefs.

Concluding its editorial, AL-BA'TH says: The logic of Israeli conditions may be acceptable to some people, but the Arabs will not accept it because they have the right to lay, accept, or reject conditions. It is impossible for a nation that has come this far to vanish. Instead, its victory is the only thing possible or, rather, certain, sooner or later.

Commentary Scores Shamir's 'Stubborn' Remarks

JN2507150591 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 25 Jul 91

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: No sooner had the U.S. secretary of state left Israel, having had lengthy talks with Shamir, Levi, and Arens; scarcely had the United States, the Soviet Union, Britain, France, and the EC nations expressed the hope that Israel would bend to peace and say yes to the U.S. proposals—given that Syria's constructive and positive posture has smoothed the path to true, comprehensive, stable and fair peace in the Middle East—hardly had the world pronounced itself optimistic that, at long last, an end to the distressing 40-year-old tragedy in Palestine might be at hand, than the enemy prime minister made extremely negative and stubborn remarks all but dashing hopes and expectations, and killing chances for peace. In an Israeli television appearance yesterday, Yitzhaq Shamir said he will not stand for an exchange of territory for peace, and reiterated his famous noes: No to a pullout from the occupied Arab

land; no to a withdrawl from the Golan Heights; no to Palestinian rights or self-determination; no to Palestinian representation at the peace conference unless the Palestinian delegation is handpicked by Israel; and no to the presence of Palestinians from Jerusalem. Shamir went on to declare that Jerusalem is not negotiable and shall remain the eternal capital of Israel, and that he will not relinquish the city even at the risk of wrecking what peace chances there are. The enemy prime minister has left nothing for the peace conference to negotiate. It is universally recognized that the Palestine question is the core of the conflict in the region, and that short of a just solution to this question assuring the Palestinians their rights to freedom, dignity, and a free future, peace will remain unattainable. Shamir, though, will recognize no rights whatever for the Palestinians—even their right to choose their representatives to the peace conference. He goes so far as to demand that Israel name the Palestinian delegates to the conference, excluding Palestinians from occupied Jerusalem. He declares in advance that the Palestinian territory will remain under occupation with the specter of settlement activity, Judaization, and the change of its features hanging over it.

Shamir's aggressive postures not only undermine U.S. peace efforts; they virtually declare an undisguised war against UN principles and charters and resolutions. Self-determination and human rights are held sacred by all the people of the world. What Shamir has done is to trample these rights underfoot, flying in the face of the whole world. It is common knowledge that the Golan Heights is Syrian territory, and yet, beyond declaring his government's refusal to give it up, Shamir urges the Zionists to organize a petition against withdrawal from the heights. In other words, the enemy leaders are planning to Judaize the whole of Palestine, and, in the bargain, grab the Golan Heights. They also covet much Arab territory and resources, and will pounce when they have digested the land they conquered in 1967.

Syria and the other Arabs have accommodated clear-cut American proposals based on the territory-for-peace formula, UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, and a fair and comprehensive settlement on all fronts. The sought-after peace conference will be a meaningless exercise unless it sets out to translate UN resolutions into concrete reality whereby the Arabs regain their occupied territory and the Palestinians their legitimate rights, and, in return, Israel obtains peace.

What Israel seems to be proposing, according to Shamir's statements, is to have peace and Arab recognition without offering anything in return. It will not even promise anyone a halt to settlement in the Arab territory. If anything, the Zionists will continue to have designs on occupied and other territory for purposes of settlement and expansion. Not only does Shamir thus pour scorn on the international community and its peace efforts, he also shows open contempt for all international principles and conventions that preclude a triumph of the law of the jungle. Under such circumstances, it is only natural that the Arabs remind the international community of its responsibilities to bring Zionist aggression to an end. It is also natural that the Arabs demand that Washington and other world capitals guarantee the enforcement of Resolutions 242 and 338 in case the peace conference—should it materialize—prove disastrous for peace.

Hizballah Officials Meet Vice President Khaddam

NC2507064291 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0530 GMT 25 Jul 91

[Text] A Hizballah delegation consisting of Secretary General 'Abbas al-Musawi and Political Bureau Chairman Husayn Khalil visited Damascus yesterday and met with Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam. The two sides discussed the overall situation in the region.

Afghanistan

Reportage on Syrian Delegations' Visits, Talks

APF Chairman Meets With Delegation

LD2507103991 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0459 GMT 25 Jul 91

[Text] Kabul, July 24, BAKHTAR—Abdul Qudus Ghorbandi, [name as received] chairman of Unity Council of the Afghan Peace Front "APF" requested Hafiz al-Asad, Syrian president, to utilize his authority in solution of the Afghan problem in a meeting with high powered delegation of the Syrian Arab Republic headed by Zahir Moshariqah [name as received], vice president and deputy chairman of National Progressive Front of that country.

During the meeting in which members of Executive Board of the Front were present, chairman of the APF informed the guest delegation on the composition, structure and work method of the Front as well as humanitarian and Islamic goals of the policy of national reconciliation (NRP) and its achievements in [words indistinct] walks of life of Afghan people. The guest delegation expressed readiness of his country for the political solution of the Afghan issue through talks and understanding. They exchanged views on the strengthening and expansion of relations between the Afghanistan Peace Front and the Syrian National Progressive Front.

Syrian Vice President Addresses Banquet

LD2507114591 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Dari 1600 GMT 24 Jul 91

[Speech by Syrian Vice President Zuhayr Mashariqah at a reception in his honor given by Vice President 'Abdol Rahim Hatif in Kabul; date not given—recorded]

[Text] Esteemed Vice President 'Abdol Rahim Hatif and dear audience:

I have the pleasure of expressing my highest regard for this reception given on the occasion of my visit to your beautiful country. Taking this opportunity, allow me to express appreciation on behalf of my entourage delegation and myself for your warm welcome. It is natural to think that between our peoples and countries there is friendship based on deep historic roots and common cultural ties that joins us together. In Syria, we follow the Republic of Afghanistan's efforts to end bloodshed and to realize the policy of national reconciliation in order to bring peace to Afghanistan and to allow the return of refugees to their cities and villages. We are fully confident that the foreign forces, who have been striving to maintain the fire of war in Afghanistan, now believe that continuation of the war is not a solution. The solution of problems is only possible by talks and national reconciliation. We are confident that nationwide peace will soon be achieved in Afghanistan.

In Syria, we view, with appreciation, the Afghan stance on the restoration of just peace in the region. This especially includes support for UN resolutions Numbers 242 and 338, which force Israel to withdraw from all Arab occupied territories and to recognize the national and inviolable rights of the Arab people of Palestine, including their right to return to their [word indistinct] land, the right to determine their own destiny, and the right to set up in their territory an independent Palestinian government. Regarding the U.S. proposal on the creation of a just peace in the region, the Government of Syria and government of friendly Arab [as heard] for the realization of a nationwide just and durable peace in the region.

Israel stubbornly [two-second break in transmission]. This becomes clear in Israel's opposition to taking part in the efforts of the United Nations and European Community to convene a peace conference. Israel does not accept the principle of exchanging land for peace and continues to build settlements on the occupied Arab territories in the West Bank, Gaza Strip, and Golan. [Word indistinct] Israel, alleging that Israel is after peace and Arabs do not accept peace, ignores international efforts for the restoration of peace in the region. This proves Israel's pretext and deceit. Moreover, Israel refuses other things that we can refer to. The Israel [words indistinct] from participation of the genuine representative of Palestinians in the peace conference. In our view, the resolutions of the international communities, despite Israel's pretexts and tricks, will open the way for implementation. It is not possible for the United Nations and the international community to choose two contradictory stances on two similar cases. For example, in view of the resolute position taken by the international community against the occupation of Kuwait by Iraq, it is not possible for these two groups to take two different positions on their natural approach regarding the occupation of the Arab territories by Israel in the Golan Heights, West Bank, [words indistinct], and Gaza Strip.

Esteemed Vice President 'Abdul Rahim Hatif: Once again I express my appreciation for the warm welcome extended to my delegation and myself. I hope relations between our countries and peoples are further developed and consolidated on the basis of common interests and prosperity of the two countries.

In conclusion, I wish Hafiz al-Asad, president of the Syrian Arab Republic and esteemed Najibollah, President of Afghanistan, good health, long life, and further [word indistinct] national interests of the two countries' people in various fields. Thank you.

Rahim Hatif Comments Noted

LD2507114691 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0450 GMT 25 Jul 91

[Text] Kabul, July 24, (BAKHTAR)—Fraternal relations between the Republic of Afghanistan [RA] and the

Syrian Arab Republic have deep historical, cultural and religious roots, which are strengthening with every passing day. Syria, as one of the most ancient cradles of human civilization and valuable places of Islamic culture and civilization, has a special place in the hearts of the Afghan people, stressed 'Abdol Rahim Hatif, vice president of the RA in his speech delivered at a banquet arranged last night by him, in honour of Zuhayr Mashariqah, vice president of the Syrian Arab Republic, and his companions who arrived yesterday in Kabul on an official and friendly visit at the invitation of the RA Government.

I firmly believe that your visit to Afghanistan will be considered as a firm step in consolidation of friendly ties between our two countries at a time when our people, after a 13-year-long devastating fratricidal war, are now having new hopes for a political solution of the Afghan problem, Mr. Hatif said.

"Thanks to the national reconciliation policy, a new chapter in the modern history of Afghanistan has opened and provided political, economic and legal possibilities for reaching understanding and accords among warring Afghan sides and the ranks of peace-loving forces have remarkably expanded.

The withdrawal of the Soviet forces from Afghanistan as one of the great gains of the national reconciliation policy has brought about a change in the attitude of the public world, Hatif stressed. This has also changed attitude inside the country, but regrettably, as a result of foreign provocations and interferences, war and killings, as of your, continue in our country. The experiences of about two and a half years of the withdrawal of the Soviet troops have proved that the Afghan problem could only be solved through peaceful means.

Great changes in the international climate have caused to change some hurdles into helpful factors in the process of peace.

The five-point peace plan of the UN Secretary General, Javier Perez de Cuellar, in reality is the reflector of complete international understanding, which creates the hope for us that the international community acts vis-a-vis the Afghan issue with a sense of responsibility. It will provide ground for intra-Afghan understanding. In spite of that, we must not forget that certain number of opposition forces as well as their upholders still insist on military solution of the problem, Hatif went on to say.

The Afghan people are fed up of war and are in favour of peace and return of over five million Afghan refugees to their homeland. Therefore, they support peaceful measure of all countries and international circles in this regard.

I, the Afghan vice president stressed, highly appreciate the sincere efforts of the friendly and fraternal leadership of the Syrian Arab Republic. We hope that such efforts should be continued and intensified.

We believe that a durable and just peace can only be maintained in the Middle East when the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, including their right of forming an independent state, be ensured and Israel restores all Arab occupied lands, including the Golan Heights. We follow closely the new wave of efforts for seeking solution of the Middle East problem and appreciate the constructive stance adopted by the Syrian leadership, Vice President Hatif stressed.

Commentary Views Syrian Visit

LD2507114791 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 24 Jul 91

[Commentary by unidentified BAKHTAR political commentator]

[Text] The official and friendly visit by a high-ranking delegation of the Syrian Arab Republic to the Republic of Afghanistan, headed by the vice president of that country, Zuhayr Mashariqah, has opened a new leaf in relations between the Republic of Afghanistan and the Syrian Arab Republic at the interests of international peace. The friendly visit by the Syrian vice president to Afghanistan is the first visit to our country by a high-ranking Arab delegation in the last 12 years, and undoubtedly can play a great role in international cooperation toward ending the war and in the process of peace in Afghanistan. It will enhance the political stand and prestige of the Republic of Afghanistan in the international arena, especially in Middle Eastern countries. The official and friendly visit by vice president of Syria to our country, which plays a role in advancing good relations between the two countries, will allow the leadership of Syria to gain a better understanding of the realities of the political and military situation in Afghanistan.

The Syrian Arab Republic is a great country of the Middle East, which has gained great successes in political, economic, social, and scientific areas and enjoys high political initiative and prestige among the international community, particular in the Arab countries of the Middle East.

Syria, in the course of a 12-year destructive war in Afghanistan, only condemned the supply of arms and weapons by a number of Arab countries for the killing of the Afghan people and the continuation of war, but consistently declared its support for the political solution to the Afghan question and for the cause of peace and the cessation of foreign interference in our country.

The people of Afghanistan and Syria have historical, religious, cultural, and scientific relations. A common Islamic faith, more than anything else, brings closer the people of both countries. It is these historical and religious relations that affect the people of both countries in the sorrows and happiness of each other. The people of Afghanistan ask the people of the world, the Arab countries, and the people of Syria, to understand the 12 years of suffering by the Afghans, and to cooperate in the

political solution of the question of Afghanistan. It is obvious that the role of the brotherly Syrian state will greatly assist in the restoration of peace and stability in our country and in the realization of the plan of the UN secretary general concerning the political settlement of the issue of Afghanistan.

The official and friendly visit by the Syrian Arab Republic delegation's to Afghanistan, the aim of which is truly the further strengthening of friendly relations between the two Islamic countries and a better understanding of the realities of the political and military situation in Afghanistan, occurring under the conditions of international political atmosphere being transformed in the interest of a political solution and the restoration of peace in Afghanistan, is very valuable. The Syrian vice president, who has expressed support for the cause of peace in Afghanistan, for the policy of national reconciliation, for a peaceful solution to the issue of Afghanistan, and for the realisation of the five-paragraph plan of the UN secretary general, strengthens the hope that the Islamic Arab countries of the Middle East will greatly understand the aims of the policy of national reconciliation of the Republic of Afghanistan and its peaceful proposals, and as a result will support the political solution of the question of our country, which is enshrined in the five-paragraph plan of the UN secretary general.

Afghan-Soviet Commercial Union Founded

LD2507105191 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0524 GMT 25 Jul 91

[Text] Kabul, July 24 BAKHTAR—The first consultative session of founders of comercial and economic union of the Republic of Afghanistan and the Russian Soviet Federative Socialist Republic "RSFSR" was convened in Kabul today. The session made decision about the rate of initial capital, shares of founders, constitution of the union and the equipments needed. M. Esmail Qasemyar, [name as received] president of the central office of Private Investment Development Dept of the Council of Ministers and B. Nazrayevanovich, [name as received] deputy minister of foreign economic relations of the RSFSR talked about the need to set up trade-economic union between the RA-RSFSR.

Present at the meeting were also Soltan Huseyn, first deputy minister of the Ministry of Planning and high-ranking representatives of the Chambers of Commerce and Industries, others concerned organs and some private entrepereurs.

Islamabad Reports Fighting in Herat Province

BK2507143591 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1400 GMT 25 Jul 91

[Text] According to reports from Afghanistan, fighting continues between mujahidin and Kabul regime forces in Herat Province. Relief workers returning from Zendeh Jan of central Herat reported today that an intense mujahidin offensive is continuing in the area and that clashes are going on in major provincial cities as well.

Bangladesh

Foreign Minister on Outcome of USSR Visit

BK2507155591 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in English 1530 GMT 25 Jul 91

[Text] Foreign Minister Mustafizur Rahman says his recent visit to the Soviet Union will usher in a new era of close ties between the two countries. He was speaking in Dhaka today at a seminar on Bangladesh-Soviet relations. Referring to Moscow's assistance during the liberation war in 1971, the foreign minister said Dhaka-Moscow ties should always be at a happy and cordial state because of mutual benefits. Soviet Ambassador Yuriy K. Alekseyev in his speech described Mr. Mustafizur Rahman's visit as very successful and said this would further strengthen the ties between Dhaka and Moscow.

India

Reportage on Finance Minister's New Budget

Termed 'Growth-Oriented'

BK2507160791 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 25 Jul 91

[Text] The finance minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh, has said the budget for 1991-92 is growth-oriented and will arrest inflationary pressures which had remained unchecked during the last 18 months. Addressing the post-budget news conference in New Delhi today, he said several essential commodities have been exempted from the increase in excise duty to ensure that the common man is not affected. The minister said that he will have a series of meetings with manufacturers and traders during the next few weeks to discuss ways to roll back prices. He said that government is working on a scheme to streamline the public distribution system. He said that a high-powered committee headed by the former Reserve Bank governor, Mr. N. Narasimhan, will go into the entire financial system of the country.

Dr. Singh said for the first time, a 2 percent reduction has been achieved in the budgetary deficit which has been brought down to 6.5 percent of the gross domestic product.

Dr. Singh disclosed that the government has been talking to the International Monetary Fund for tying up the assistance of $220 million. He said he never wanted to go in for any further arrangement with the IMF without taking the nation into confidence. Structural reforms have already been announced and the government now intends to make a standby arrangement with the IMF for

assistance in time of need. He said this will, however, not be done at the cost of our national priorities.

Called 'Historic Document'

BK2507114191 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1010 GMT 25 Jul 91

[Commentary by Dr. Sanjay Baru, associate editor of THE ECONOMIC TIMES]

[Text] The union budget for 1991-92 is an historic document for a variety of reasons. Firstly, it was presented in an unusual month, July, and the reason for this in itself is important. The political uncertainty of the last [as heard] casts a long shadow on the overall macroeconomic framework of the budget. Secondly, it has been presented by a professional economist for the first time in over 2 and ½ decades. Thirdly, it has been presented at a time when India is negotiating a massive loan from the International Monetary Fund so that the influence of the Fund is very much visible. Finally, it has been prepared in the context of a fundamental change in the macroeconomic trade and industrial policy in India. Over the last month, the government of India has initiated a series of reforms which have dramatically changed the economic policy structure in India, providing greater incentive for private enterprise, both Indian and foreign, to invest in India and for the growth of exports.

The union budget introduces several policies which are aimed at stimulating the industrial economy. However, the overriding concern of the finance minister has been to reduce the fiscal deficit in the economy to 6.5 percent of the gross domestic product. This has been made necessary both because there has been excessive deficit financing over the seventh plan period and because the IMF has insisted on India reducing its fiscal deficit as a precondition for a larger loan. In order to be able to do this, the finance minister has had to cut expenditure and raise revenues. Thus, the total additional tax burden imposed on the economy during the rest of the financial year amounts to 21,617 million rupees. On the other hand, total expenditure has been trimmed and capital expenditures are to grow only by a negligible 1 percent. However, it is a welcome fact that this additional tax burden has not been imposed through higher direct personal income tax rates. There is no change in the rates of personal income taxation. Corporation taxes have, however, been marginally increased. The finance minister has also reduced customs duties and has proposed to reduce the ad valorem rate of basic class auxiliary duties of customs to a maximum of 150 percent. Once the fiscal scenario improves, the finance minister has promised to further reduce customs tariffs.

A major feature of this budget as far as Nonresident Indians [NRI's] are concerned is the introduction of two schemes meant to bring in hard currency remittances from abroad on more attractive terms. It is proposed that remittances in foreign exchange can be made to any person in India, and even if made as a gift to a donee in India, this would not attract any gift tax. The source of funds, out of which remittances are made, would not be scrutinized, though the rupee earnings on these remittances will invite direct taxation. Another important scheme is the floating of the Indian Development Bonds, which are to be denominated in U.S. dollars. These would be available for purchase by NRI's and their corporate bodies overseas. There will be no ceiling for investment in these bonds which will have a maturity period of five years. The government also proposes to set up the office of chief commissioner for NRI's who will facilitate better interaction with the central government. The budget now makes it possible for foreigners to own property in India, though the rental income from such property cannot be repatriated.

All these policies are being formulated in the wider context of the liberalization of the economic policy in India and the introduction of an easier fiscal regime. The new fiscal policy and the incentives being provided for foreign investment in India are neatly dovetailed into the new industrial policy which for the first time have virtually scrapped the MRTP [Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices] Act and allows for freer foreign investment, with foreign companies being allowed 51 percent stake in equity.

The budget for 1991-92 sends an important message to the outside world. India is no longer interested in isolating itself from the rest of the world and will welcome both NRI's and foreigners to come and invest here. India has now tossed the ball into the global court. It is now for the world to respond and utilize the opportunity being provided to mutual advantage. Dr. Manmohan Singh has shown that he means business. The question is: Whoever ,those outside India who have been criticizing her restrictive policies, are now willing to seize the opportunity and play ball? [sentence as heard]

Water Dispute Results in Strikes in 3 Provinces

BK2607041691 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0240 GMT 26 Jul 91

[Text] A 12-hour statewide dawn to dusk bundh [strike] in Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, and the union territory of Pondicherry began at 0600 this morning on the Cauvery water dispute. In Tamil Nadu and Pondicherry, the all party bundh, is in protest against the Karnataka Government's refusal to implement the directives of the Cauvery water tribunal. A holiday has been declared by the governments in Tamil Nadu and Pondicherry. In Karnataka, the bundh is against the interim order of the Cauvery water tribunal. The call has been given by all political parties, including the ruling Congress-I.

The chief minister and leaders of other supporting parties have appealed to the people to observe the bundh in a peaceful manner. Essential services like hospitals, medical shops, water and electric supply have been exempted from the bundh. A holiday has been declared for educational institutions in the state. According to the

spokesman of the state road transport corporation, there will be no bus services to rural areas till this evening, while the Bangalore City Service will remain suspended for 24 hours.

New Delhi Expresses Concern Over Beg's Statement

BK2507155991 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 25 Jul 91

[Text] India has expressed concern over the recent provocative statements made against it by the Pakistan Army Chief General Mirza Aslam Beg. The Indian high commissioner in Islamabad, Mr. J.N. Dixit, called on the secretary general of foreign affairs, Mr. Akram Zaki; and the acting foreign secretary, Mr. Enamul Haq, to seek clarifications over the statements made by General Beg.

Agreement Signed With Australia on Taxation

BK2607042491 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0240 GMT 26 Jul 91

[Text] India and Australia signed an agreement on preventing double taxation, which aims at increasing trade between the two countries. The agreement was signed by the Indian high commissioner to Australia, Mr. Akbar Mirza Khalili, and the Australian Treasurer Mr. John Kerin in Canberra yesterday. The agreement prevents double taxation by allocating taxing rights in all forms of income flows between the two countries. It also provides for certain types of income to be taxed in full by the country in which the income has its source.

11 People, Including Two 'Militants' Killed

BK2607051691 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0435 GMT 26 Jul 91

[Text] In Punjab two militants are among 11 persons killed in separate incidents since yesterday. According to an official spokesman, some scooter-borne unidentified gunmen shot dead five persons returning to their houses in two separate incidents in Amritsar District.

Iran

Yazdi Critical of Mideast Disarmament Plan

LD2607101691 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 26 Jul 91

[Text] Delivering the Tehran Friday prayers sermons today, the head of the judicial power, Ayatollah Yazdi, condemned the Middle East disarmament plan—a plan which has been designed by the global arrogance. He said: The Islamic Republic of Iran will agree to destroying weapons of mass destruction on a worldwide scale; however, the Islamic Republic cannot accept such a point to be used as a pretext by the arrogant powers for the disarmament of countries of their own choice.

The acting Tehran Friday prayers imam said: Why does this plan overlook the Zionist regime? Indeed, the authors of the plan even go as far as strengthening that regime, while holding that the antagonists of that regime must be disarmed.

He said: the main objective in presenting the said plan is to solve the problems of the arrogance and the Zionist regime in the region. It is designed to be used against the Muslim peoples, especially the Islamic revolution, which is regarded as the principal danger to them.

Ayatollah Yazdi made it clear that the topic of disarmament and compromising plans for Palestine were in fact designed as a second Camp David, which the Muslims should confront. He underlined that the Muslim peoples of the region had now arisen; he said they fully comprehended hidden or apparent current problems. America would be making a mistake if she believed that she could deceive the people through political showmanship.

In his prayer sermons, Ayatollah Yazdi also referred to the holding of magnificent mourning ceremonies of Moharram [marking the martyrdom of Imam Hoseyn, held by Shiites] in various countries of the world, especially Pakistan and Kashmir. Praising the Muslims of these regions, he criticized the insulting afront to these ceremonies by elements who work in the interests of the enemies of Islam. He condemned attacks on the mourning ceremonies in various towns of Pakistan and Kashmir and called on clerics to take up these issues. He stressed that such acts would be acceptable to no sect or faith.

Daily Assails U.S. Objectives in Iraq

NC2507155891 Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL in English 18 Jul 91 p 2

[Editorial: "Bush Militarism and Iraq's Nuke Hoopla"]

[Text] The United States and its allies in the Persian Gulf war are once again foot-stomping—this time threatening military action against Iraq. President George Bush, according to Pentagon officials, has already approved a list of about twenty Iraqi command-and-control targets that would be attacked if Baghdad refuses to comply with demands that its nuclear technology be destroyed.

Under the 3 April, Persian Gulf cease-fire agreement, Iraq is required to destroy its ballistic missiles and weapons of mass destruction—nuclear, biological and chemical. But according to American officials, Iraqi military forces were spotted last week burying components of an electromagnetic nuclear fuel separator known as a colictron at a Republican Guard military base near Baghdad.

That Saddam Husayn remains a regional threat despite the crushing defeat that was supposed to neutralize him is not shocking news. The dismaying fact is that the United States is again providing the setting for yet

another vast human tragedy. The double-hypocrisy of the White House's oft-repeated claim that its sole aim is Mideast stability becomes plain as the United States pursues its hands-off policy towards Israel's nuclear capability. U.S. President Bush is condemning Iraq, while permitting Israel to continue its nuclear program.

The forked-tongue approach is not confined to the Americans. The British have also noisily and slavishly supported Bush's assault blackmail. French President Francois Mitterrand too, has threatened Iraq with a military strike while trying to conceal the Champs Elysee's hand in assisting Saddam in the development of chemical weapons that killed thousands of Kurdish civilians and other persecuted groups. Mitterrand said coordination would be close between Paris and Washington on ways of dealing with Saddam with the military of the two countries "in constant touch".

The ultimatums and muscle-flexing by America and its allies appear to be a collective effort to disarm Iraq of its terror weapons, once and for all. The truth, however, is that the U.S. aims to secure for its friend and ally, the Zionist regime in Israel, the sole proprietorship of the region's nuclear production capability. Israel, long known to have assembled a formidable nuclear weapons arsenal, is also developing sea-based nuclear cruise missiles.

Washington also underestimated Saddam's military strength after the cease-fire. Now that this mistake has become visible, the United States wants to finish off what was left undone. Bush has even suggested a coup may be the best way to end Iraq's nuclear arms efforts. Another direct motive by the Western alliance in clobbering Saddam Husayn is to further terrorize, humiliate and oppress the Muslims in general while paving the way for Israel to expand.

With all the hoopla over Iraq's so-called nuclear menace, it is interesting to note what one United Nations official involved in the inspection of Iraqi facilities had said: Iraq has enough uranium "in theory", adding that it is doubtful Iraq can actually produce a nuclear weapon anytime soon. If that assessment is true, it is obvious that what the United States aims to do is to establish the principle that Americans can strike who they want and when they want—with impunity.

Commentary Says Deployment of Forces Serves U.S.

NC2607095591 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Turkish 1600 GMT 24 Jul 91

[Unattributed commentary: "Whose Interests Are Served by the Deployment of the Rapid-Reaction Force in Turkey?"]

[Text] Speaking at his weekly news conference two days ago, Vice President Hasan Habibi expressed the Islamic Republic of Iran's opposition to any foreign military presence in the region. On the question of the rapid-reaction force, Habibi asserted that this force was being deployed in Turkey to meet the superpowers' requirements. He also said that the force's proximity to the Iranian border would create insecurity.

The Islamic Republic of Iran's clear position on this issue has prompted the international media to examine it more closely.

When we remember that, in the past, the United States, to protect its hegemonist interests, sent military forces to troubled regions, we can better understand its hidden objectives in this case. In a bid to create the conditions that would allow him to realize his country's hegemonist aspirations, George Bush praised Turkish officials and the Turkish people during his two-day visit there. All indications are, however, that the Turkish people will never allow part of their territory to come under foreign military or political occupation and the leaders of political parties in that country have opposed the rapid-reaction force's deployment. In an attempt to reassure the public, Turkish officials have announced the force would be placed under Turkish command and would have to secure Turkey's approval before embarking on any operation. The Turkish Government is well aware, however, that U.S. generals will command the rapid-reaction force, and its statement that the force is being set up to protect the Kurds from the Iraqi regime is nothing but a pretext to conceal the U.S. policy of intimidation.

The people in the region are being told that the United States and its allies are setting up the rapid-reaction force to defend the Kurdish people in northern Iraq. This, then, raises the question of how such a force can remain indifferent to the oppression being inflicted on the people of occupied Palestine and the Muslims of southern Iraq.

The Islamic Republic of Iran expects the countries of the region to cooperate among themselves to establish security, something Iran is working very hard to try to achieve. The experience of the past has taught us that dependence on hegemonist forces leads to nothing but regret. The Turkish people have the right to demand that their government answer the very important question of whose interest is served by the rapid-reaction force's deployment in southeastern Turkey.

Paper Opposes Lifting Sanctions Against Iraq

LD2507141591 Tehran IRNA in English 0911 GMT 25 Jul 91

[Text] Tehran, 25 July, IRNA—An English-language daily Thursday editorialized on the new U.S. move considering to lift part of the economic sanctions against Iraq to enable that country to buy basic supplies such as food and medicine.

TEHRAN TIMES noted: "Allowing Iraq to earn a limited amount of revenues to be used on food and medicine would not at all help the vast group of people who are against the government and are virtually living in a state of siege."

The editorial stressed that in case Iraq gained new revenues, "it will buy food and medicine but only for distribution among its soldiers and supporters."

Furthermore, the daily said, the Iraqi regime had been denounced by the world community as a criminal and transgressor of international laws and regulations.

"Now to exempt a regime, run by international criminals, of some of its deserved punishments would undermine the validity of international laws," the paper added.

The daily concluded by saying that it would be better for the world community to arrange for a plan to distribute food and medical supplies among the deprived people of Iraq under the supervision of the concerned international organisations.

ABRAR Publishes One-Page English Edition

LD2507194191 Tehran IRNA in English 0818 GMT 25 Jul 91

[Text] Tehran, 25 July, IRNA—The Persian-language morning daily ABRAR published its first one-page English weekly edition Thursday.

In a note to readers, ABRAR said that domestic and world events as well as commentaries, viewpoints and analyses of major world developments will be carried by the weekly edition which will appear on page 12.

The main stories on this week's edition dealt with the stance of the Lebanese Hezbollah on Arab-Israeli conspiracy, President Rafsanjani's comments on forthcoming summit of the organization of Islamic Conference (OIC), Hojjat ol-Eslam Ahmad Khomeyni's comments on the U.S. new world order and Majles speaker's talks with Sudanese official.

It also carried an editorial titled, 'U.S. Aims to Hinder Iran's Reconstruction' which blamed the world arrogance for its "false and baseless propaganda accusing Iran of attempting to produce nuclear weapons."

Pakistan

Officials Comment on U.S. Relations, Aid

BK2607021191 Karachi DAWN in English 17 Jul 91 p 11

[Article by M.H. Askari: "Pakistan and New World Order"]

[Text] In a recent interview, Mr Akram Zaki, Secretary General, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, made the assertion that "aid was not all" that was in common between Pakistan and the United States and that the Senate Chairman, Mr Wasim Sajjad, in no sense went to Washington seeking a resumption of economic and military assistance.

On an earlier occasion, Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif himself stressed that "I have broken the beggar's bowl." He also maintained that regardless of the aid relationship there were a number of common values which were shared by Islamabad and Washington. On the face of it, however, once the aid factor is removed there would appear to be virtually no other dimension to the US-Pakistan relationship which began shortly after Pakistan gained independence and now appears to have run into an impase.

There is a general tendency among Pakistani politicians and intellectuals to remind the Americans of their "anti-Muslim" and "pro-jewish" stance. This sentiment was most widely expresed during the Gulf War even though Pakistan's official policy was clearly at variance with it. In the circumstances, the talk of "shared values" between Pakistan and the US and the statement that "aid is not all" are difficult to understand.

With the suspension of American aid, emotions now tend to be more raw than ever. The talk of the new World order suggests that for countries like Pakistan which have been dependent upon American aid the situation is not what it used to be and this also tends to serve as an irritant. It was the blunt statement of Senator Grassely at the Pak-American Association reception in Washington in honour of the Pakistan Parliamentary delegation, making it clear that the very basis of the United States' relations with Pakistan may have changed in the context of the New World Order, that apparently provoked the delegation's leader Chowdhry Abdul Ghafor.

The Chowdhry, it seems, put aside the text of his prepared speech and resorted to an expression of his feelings in a tone which—according to one version—had a strong flavour of Punjabi vernacular. He reportedly reminded the Senator of Pakistan's steadfast support to the United States in awkward situations such as the one that developed in Afghanistan and otherwise helping it to achieve its strategic objectives during the Cold War. He obviously hoped that his American interlocutors would have known better and displayed a greater sense of gratitude.

However, the reality is that in two of the most critical areas of its national policy—the nuclear programme and relations with India—Pakistan has to accept the framework of the New World Order within which Washisngton now intends to conduct its foreign relations. Incidentally by an interesting coincidence, the term Pax Americana has been used both in Pakistan and India to express the perception of the United States' own role in the New World Order.

A senior Karachi journalist used it during the Worldnet Interview sponsored by the US Consulate General in

Karachi on July 10 while discussing the New World Order with Ambassador Thomas Pickering, United States' Permanent Representative in the United Nations. Earlier, Chakravarthi Raghavan, Geneva Representative of the Third World Network Features, writing in the New Delhi weekly, MAINSTREAM, equated the New World Order with Pax Americana while making a reassessment of North-South relations in the post-Gulf War situation. The American reaction to his suggestion was forcefully expressed when in the Worldnet Interview Ambassador Pickering firmly said: "No, of course, it (the New World Order) is not at all a Pax Americana if it is anything it is a Pax United Nations..." Ambassador Pickering went on to elaborate that the whole effort was to build the idea of international collective security into the foreign policy of all (emphasis added) of the countries of the world so that "dispute settlement, particualrly regional dispute settlement, can be accomplished through international mechanisms."

He also made the unusual claim that though the UN Charter was drawn up in mid 1940s, "it is only now beginnign to have its opportunity to operate effectively, particularly in the Security Council." His statement appeared to imply that with the US, because of the end of the Cold War, having acquired the position of first among equals, the Security Council now functioned without friction and more cohesively; no Nikita Khrushchev would now ever be in a position to take off his shoe and bang the negotiating table with it!

In the cohtext of India-Pakistan relations the US has progressively veered round to the view that all outstanding disputes, including Kashmir, should be settled bilaterally. Washington expects, as Nicholas Platt, Ambassador designate to Pakistan, told the Senate Foreign Relations Committee on June 26, India and Pakistan to abandon their "animnosities" and actively pursue "a lasting friendship." Ambassador Platt who is expected to replace Robert Oakley in Islamabad in August, confirmed that the US would continue to encourage Pakistan and India to continue their confidence-building measures which were initiated during tensions over Kashmir in 1990 and thus work towards a relationship of mutual trust.

The major stumbling block in US-Pakistan relations continues to be Pakistan's nuclear development programme. In the meantime, there is a growing feeling that while the US might be prepared to live with India possessing nuclear weapons, it would want Pakistan to dismantle its nuclear programme. This view was apparently reflected in Senator Grassely's speech at the Pak-American Association reception for the Pakistani parliamentary delegation. The Senator reportedly made it clear that Pakistan was going to be judged independently of the India nuclear programme.

Incidentally, in May 1979 it was Ambassador Thomas Pickering, Assistant Secretary of State at the time, who stated during a Congressional testimony that Pakistan's enrichment programme was not justified by its nuclear energy needs. He was quoted as having said: "We are concerned therefore that the Pakistani programme is not peaceful but related to an effort to develop a nuclear-explosive capability." Subsequently, Washington once again terminated its aid to Pakistan and did not agree to resume it until well after the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan.

The late Gen. Ziaul Haq rejected the Carter Administration's offer of 400 million dollar aid in 1980 but accepted President Reagan's offer of an aid package totalling 3.2 billion dollars over a six-year period. In granting Pakistan exemption from the Symington Amendment, the US Administration was hopeful that the aid package would deter Pakistan from pursuing its nuclear programme and prevent it from conducting a nuclear test. The Reagan Administration agreed to extend aid to Pakistan effective October 1987 by offering a further six-year package totalling 4.02 billion dollars. However, there was a slight delay in the passage of US legislation leading to temporary suspension of aid, but at the end of December 1987 the Reagan Administration agreed to certify that Pakistan did not possess a nuclear explosive device.

Nonetheless, Dr Leonard S. Spector in his study Nuclear Ambitions (published last year) maintains that when Ms Benazir Bhutto took office as Prime Minister in December 1988, "she inherited not only a de facto nuclear weapons capability (attained during the Zia regime) but also the increasing risk that within a year American aid would be terminated" unless Pakistan agreed to modify its nuclear programme. Washington has lately refused to testify that Pakistan did not possess a nuclear explosive device. The US aid has once again been suspended and seems unlikely to be resumed. Ambassador designate Platt has stated, "we certainly hope that certification can be issued but will not compromise our non-proliferation principles to do so."

In regard to its nuclear programme Pakistan is obviously faced with a most awkward choice, in fact Hobson's choice: it has to live indefinitely without the economic and military assistance to which it has become accustomed over a period of over 35 years or provide Washington with something more tangible than a routine assurance that the nuclear programme is peaceful.

Regardless of the situation on the ground, the perception in the west is that Pakistan has been able to develop a nuclear weapons capability. In fact, it is even insinuated that Pakistan has developed the capability to assist others. Nonetheless, it is recognised that (in the words of Spector) in order to avoid an all-out nuclear arms race with India and the risk of irretrievably alienating the United States, Pakistan is likely to refrain from nuclear testing.

It is to be hoped that the pressures of the domestic problems and the process of acquiring for his Government more effective legal and constitutional powers to

deal with the deteriorating law and order situation will give Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif enough respite to follow up on his proposals for regional denuclearisation. He can seek encouragement from the fact that a feeling is growing in India that the proposals, in the words of a former senior Ambassador and one-time Secretary of the Indian External Affairs Ministry's policy- planning committee, A.K. Damodaran, are a major development in regional diplomacy. Damodaran believes that India should accept the invitation to the five-nation conference since by doing so India may just about "salvage an agreement acceptable to both India and Pakistan simply because the great powers are reaching a position of nuclear unanimity."

Sri Lanka

Spokesman Details Elephant Pass Battle

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["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, July 25 (LANKAPUVATH)—State Secretary for Defence Air Chief Marshal Walter Fernando reviewing the security situation in northern Sri Lanka, said at today's Cabinet news briefing in Colombo that a total of 800 LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] cadres had been killed since July 10, in the fighting at Elephant Pass, while 125 soldiers including six officers were killed. Air Chief Marshal Fernando said 150 terrorists and 17 soldiers including one officer were killed in the battle for the Elephant Pass camp, while in the fighting following the landing of relief troops in Operation 'Balavegaya', 650 terrorists were estimated killed and 108 soldiers, including five officer also died. The state secretary defence said these figures tallied with those stated in LTTE radio transmissions. He said government troops had moved four kilometres south after securing a beach-head at Vettilakkeni on the northeast coast, seven kilometres from the beleagured Elephant Pass camp. He said the troops had reached the southern end of the Thondaimannar Lagoon and were three kilometres from the camp. They were engaged in consolidating their positions before continuing. He explained that troops had not only to move directly forwards, but also had to spread sideways, too, in order to have strong flanks to prevent being vulnerable to enemy mortar fire. Air Chief Marshal Fernando said "we are fairly well established from the coast from the point of landing, to the lagoon on the western side." Troops were also well established on the north and east and alot of supplies were being sent in. The terrorists had made a number of suicide attacks. Both terrorists and security forces suffered heavy casualties, as a result. He said the terrorists had no land passage from north to south. Elephant Pass is blocked by the security forces camp. The other route, too, was now blocked by government troops. He said helicopters were still unable to land in the Elephant Pass camp as the approaches were not yet cleared. "But we are on a sound footing at the beach-head. So it is a matter of time," Air Chief Marshal Fernando said.

Associated with cabinet spokesman Ranil Wickremesinghe at today's news briefing were Minister of State for Information A.J. Ranasinghe, Presidential Advisor on International Relations Bradman Weerakoon, State Secretary for Defence Air Chief Marchal Walter Fernando, and Secretary for Rehabilitation and Reconstruction Christie Silva.